Archie
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NO.8 JAN.

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KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA

DIRECT EDITION

KNUCKLES

Book Eight

Dark Vengeance

Part Two of Three

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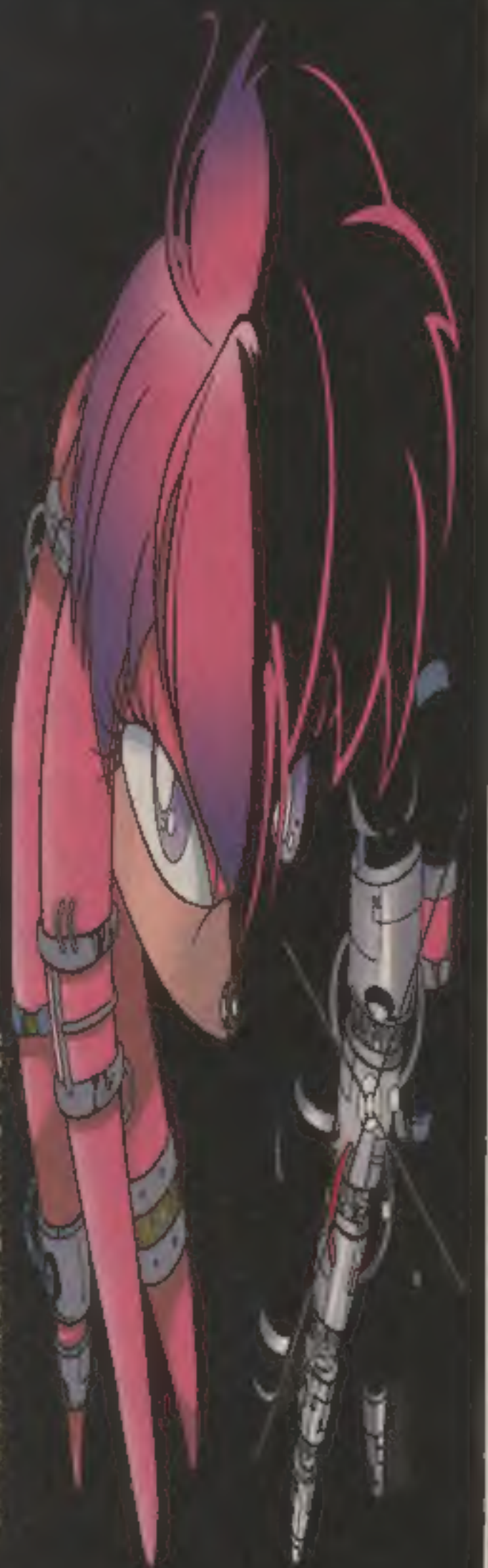

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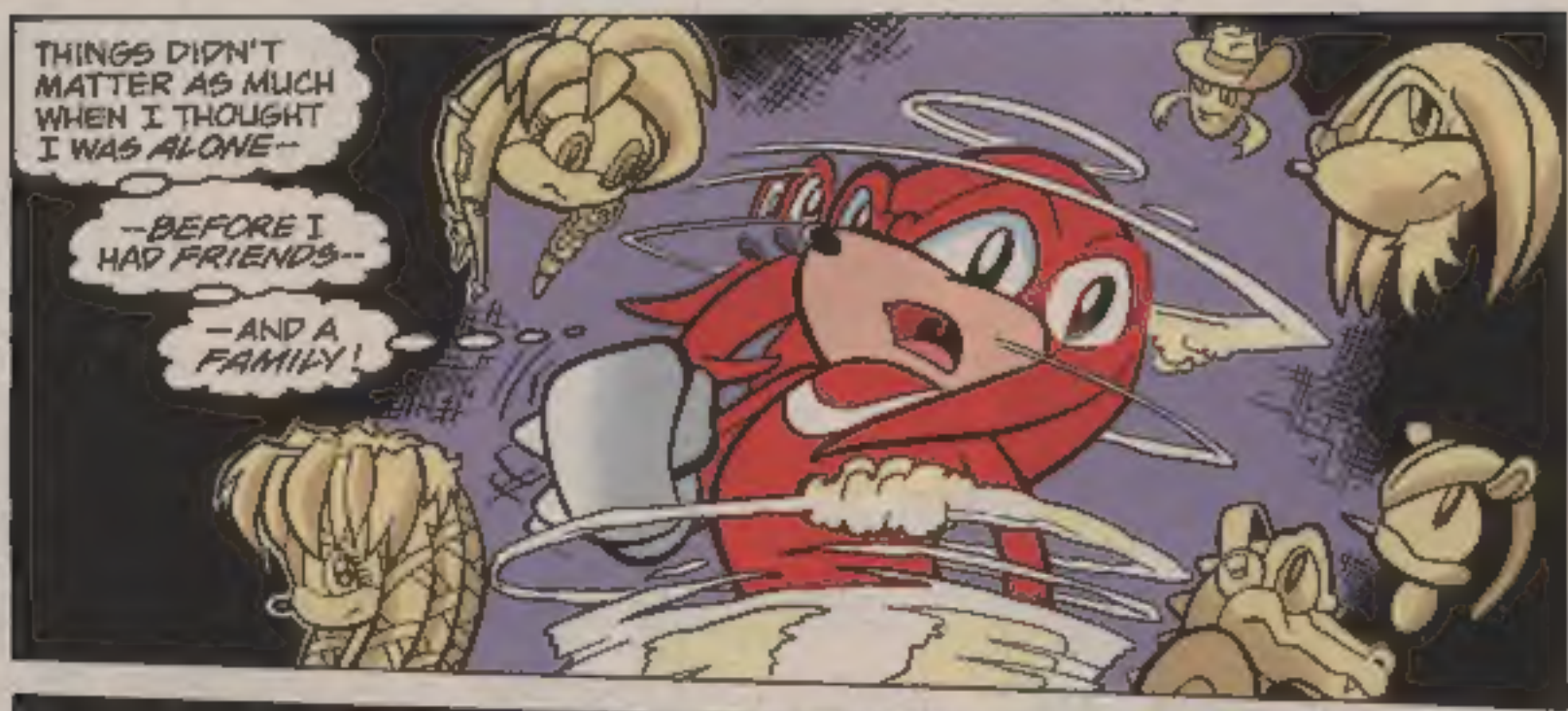
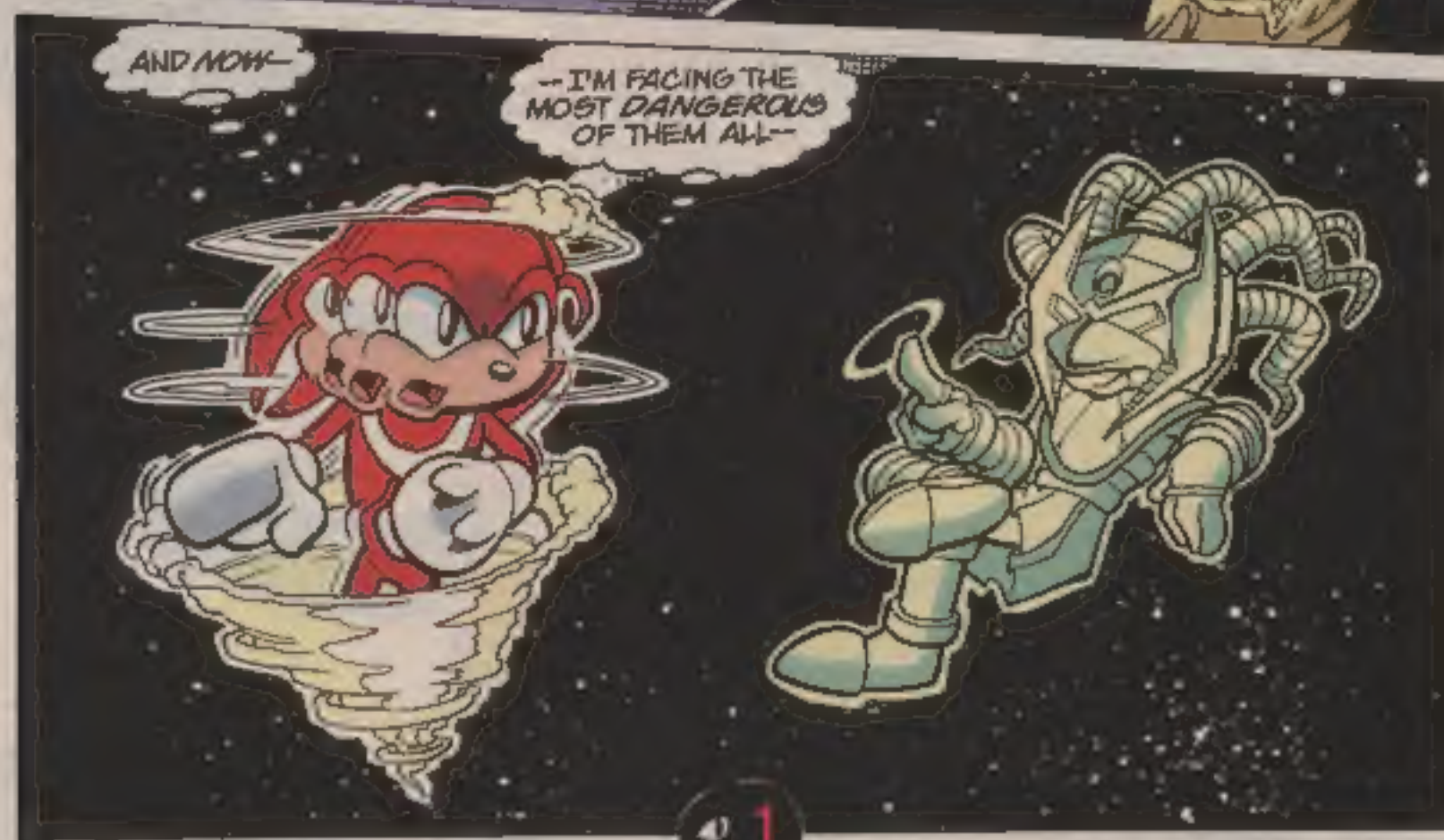
BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN WITHIN, HE IS NONE OTHER THAN KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

LAST ISSUE, KNUCKLES AND JULIE-SU ENGAGED IN A THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSION INVOLVING PLENTY OF QUESTIONS BUT FEW ANSWERS. DECIDING THERE WAS ONLY ONE PARTY THEY COULD TURN TO, THEY SOUGHT OUT ARCHIMEDES, THE ENIGMATIC FIRE-ANT WHO SERVES AS BOTH FRIEND AND MENTOR. DURING THEIR QUEST, THEY DISCOVERED EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING BAD HAD HAPPENED TO THE CHOATIX. EVIDENCE WHICH POINTED TO NOT JUST ONE ENEMY, BUT TWO.

MAKING THEIR WAY ACROSS THE ISLAND, KNUCKLES AND JULIE-SU WERE CONFRONTED ONCE AGAIN BY A BEING MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER THEY HAD EVER ENCOUNTERED.

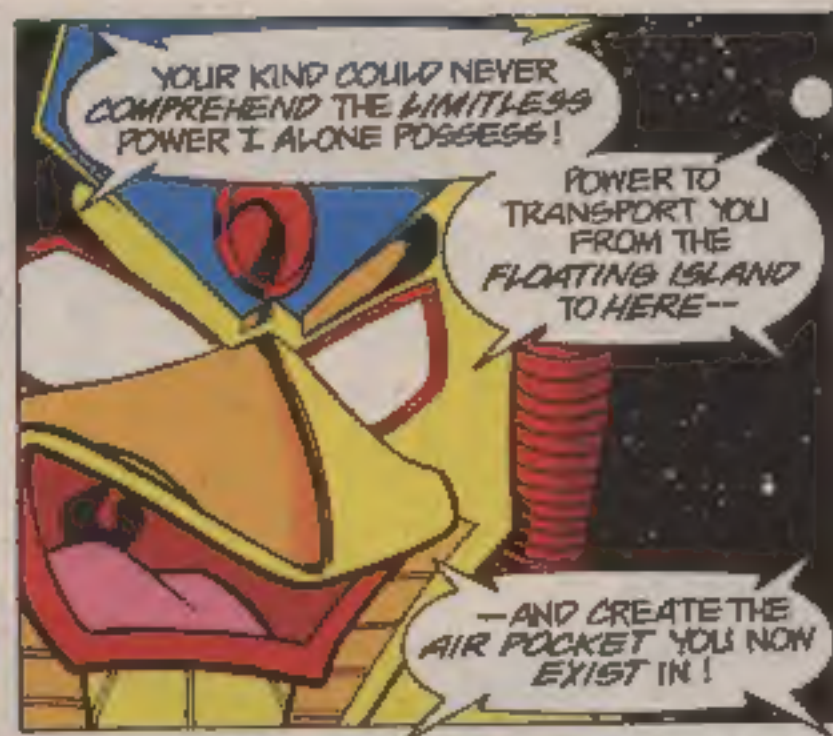

THINGS DIDN'T MATTER AS MUCH WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS ALONE--
--BEFORE I HAD FRIENDS--
--AND A FAMILY!

BUT WITH THE GOOD--
--CAME THE BAD--
--ENEMIES AND THREATS WAY BEYOND ANYTHING I WAS TAUGHT TO EXPECT!


AND NOW--
--I'M FACING THE MOST DANGEROUS OF THEM ALL--

--ENERJAK, AN ALL-POWERFUL BEING FUELED BY THE ENERGY OF ELEVEN CHAOS EMERALDS--
--WHO, FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WAS ONCE AN ECHIDNA SCIENTIST NAMED DIMITRI!
FUNNY HOW ONE'S BLOOD RELATIVES MAKE THE WORST ENEMIES!
MY, MY, MY! EVER THE PROUD ECHIDNA, ARE WE?

KNUCKLES IN
THE GAUNTLET
NOT FOR LONG, I CAN ASSURE YOU, KNUCKLES!
I'M GOING TO BREAK YOU TOTALLY—COMPLETELY—MERCILESSLY!
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR WHAT YOU DID!



FUNNY--

--I WAS THINKING THAT WITH ALL YOUR SO-CALLED POWER WHAT A GLASS JAW YOU HAVE!*

*KNUX AND ENERJAK DUKED IT OUT IN THE THIRD ISSUE FROM KNUCKLES' FIRST MINI-SERIES--HISTORIAN JUSTIN.

NOT TO MENTION IT WAS YOU GOING BYE-BYE AT THE END THERE!*

* SOME ISSUE, AND HE SURE DID! --JUSTIN ASAIN.

YOU THINK YOU SUCCEEDED DUE TO YOUR OWN CLEVERNESS?!

A DOLT SUCH AS YOU COULD NEVER HOPE TO OVER-COME ONE SUCH AS I!

ALLOW ME TO DEMONSTRATE!

FAAWOOM

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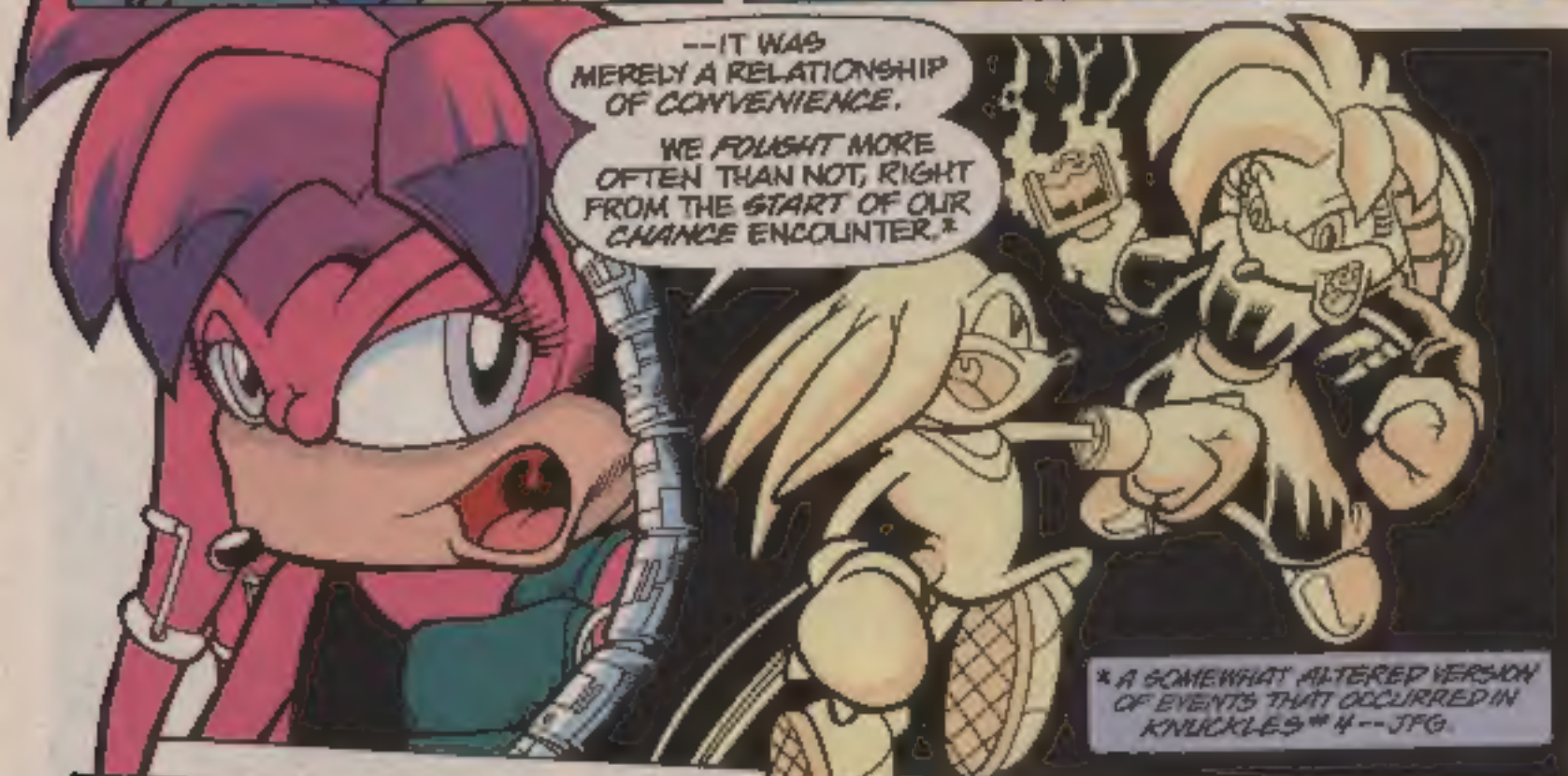
OBSERVE! FROM THE SURFACE OF MOBIAN MOON TO THE DEEPEST, DARKEST DEPTHS OF MOBIAN OCEANS!
THIS IS WHAT REAL, ABSOLUTE POWER IS ALL ABOUT--
--THE ABILITY TO DO ANYTHING WITH BUT A THOUGHT!
I GATHER FROM YOUR EXPRESSION--
"--THE REALITY OF YOUR SITUATION IS BEGINNING TO SINK IN!"
I HAD JUST ABOUT GIVEN UP HOPE--
GLUB! GLUB!
GLUB! GLUB!
--OF EVER FINDING YOU, JULIE-SU!
WE SUFFER ENOUGH LOSSES WITHOUT ABANDONING ONE OF OUR OWN!
STILL--

—I'M OBLIGATED TO INQUIRE ABOUT YOUR ACTIVITIES SINCE YOU'VE BEEN ON YOUR OWN!

DIMITRI FOUND YOU WITH KNUCKLES, SO YOU UNDERSTAND MY CONCERN WITH YOUR EXPOSURE TO RADICAL IDEAS.
I WAS WITH THE GUARDIAN, COMMANDER—


--IT WAS MERELY A RELATIONSHIP OF CONVENIENCE.
WE FOUGHT MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, RIGHT FROM THE START OF OUR CHANCE ENCOUNTER.*
* A SOMEWHAT ALTERED VERSION OF EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN KNUCKLES #4 -- JFG.

I WAS SIMPLY USING HIM TO FIND YOU—AND THE LEGION! NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS DID I THINK THE GREAT DIMITRI HIMSELF WOULD RETURN ME TO THE FOLD.
CONSIDERING YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN AN OUT-STANDING SOLDIER TO OUR CAUSE--

--I'LL ACCEPT YOU AT YOUR WORD!
I TRUST I WON'T REGRET THIS DECISION!
OH, MY HONOR, SIR!
JULIE-SU, IF I WERE TO DISCOVER OTHERWISE--

"--MUCH MORE THAN HONOR WOULD BE AT STAKE!"

THIS IS SO WEIRD! I SHOULD FEEL AT HOME HERE-

--AND INSTEAD, I FEEL LIKE SUCH A STRANGER!

I EXPECT THE MEMBERS OF THIS SQUAD TO HAVE THEIR VEHICLES READY TO MOVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE!

SERGEANT RYKOR, I'M HERE TO RESUME MY POSITION!

IS THAT SO, SOLDIER?

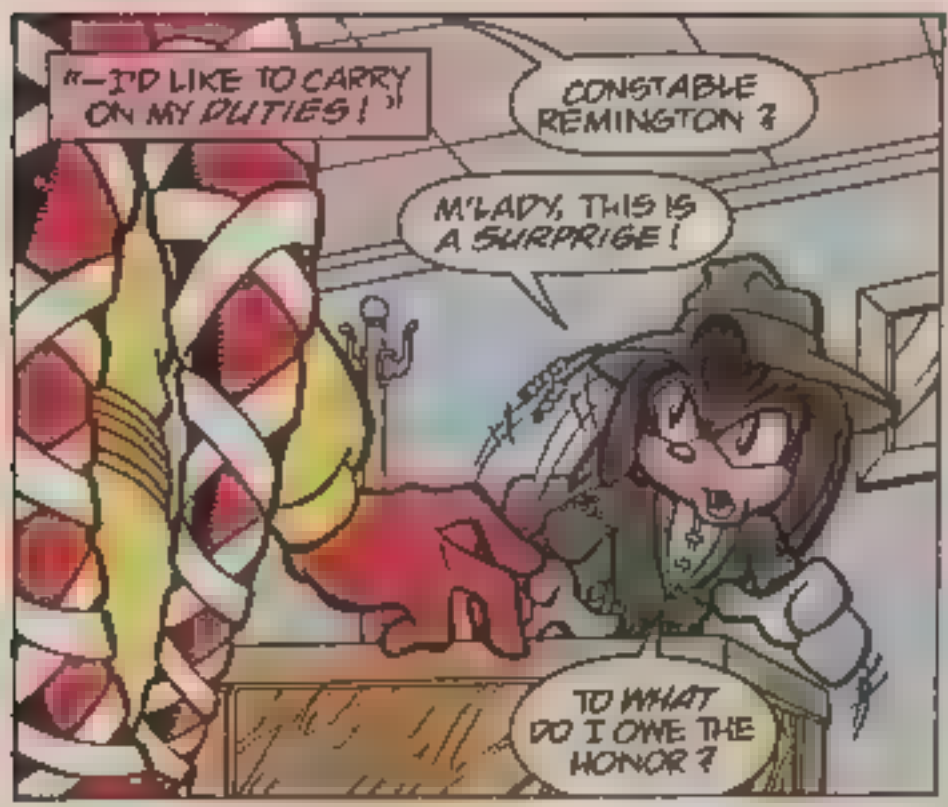
YOU SO MUCH AS GIVE ME REASON TO DOUBT YOUR LOYALTY--

AND YOU'LL SEE STARS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT!

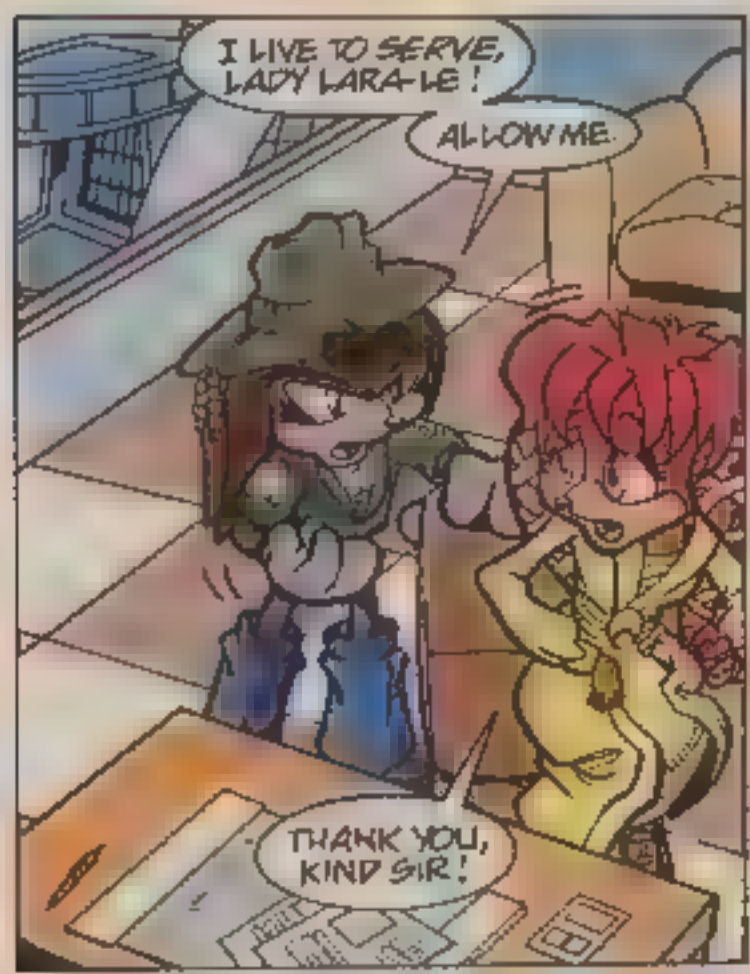
IS THAT CLEAR?

AS A BELL, SERGEANT!

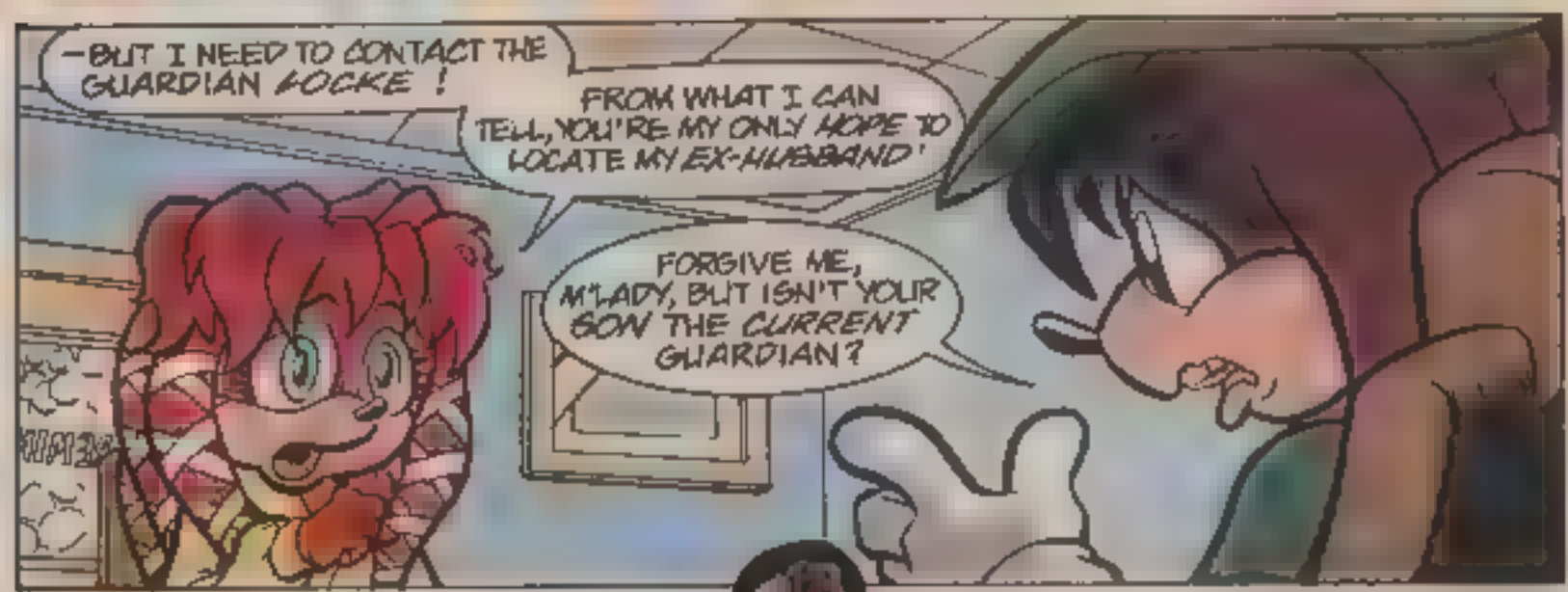
NOW, UNLESS YOU INTEND TO USE THAT THING---


"—I'D LIKE TO CARRY ON MY DUTIES!"
CONSTABLE REMINGTON?
M'LADY, THIS IS A SURPRIGE!
TO WHAT DO I OWE THE HONOR?

I NEED A FAVOR, CONSTABLE—
--AND I BEL EVE YOU TO BE THE ONLY ONE IN AUTHORITY TO ASSIST ME!


I LIVE TO SERVE, LADY LARA-LE!
ALLOW ME.
THANK YOU, KIND SIR!

NOW THEN--
-HOW MAY I BE OF SERVICE?
THIS MAY COME AS A SURPRISE TO YOU—


—BUT I NEED TO CONTACT THE GUARDIAN LOCKE!
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, YOU'RE MY ONLY HOPE TO LOCATE MY EX-HUSBAND!
FORGIVE ME, M'LADY, BUT ISN'T YOUR SON THE CURRENT GUARDIAN?

FAN ART

CHELSEY ATKINSON
GREAT BEND, KS

KRIS VAN HUYSTEE
AGE 9

MINNA LUNNEY
AGE 15

LIEN NGUYEN
AGE 15

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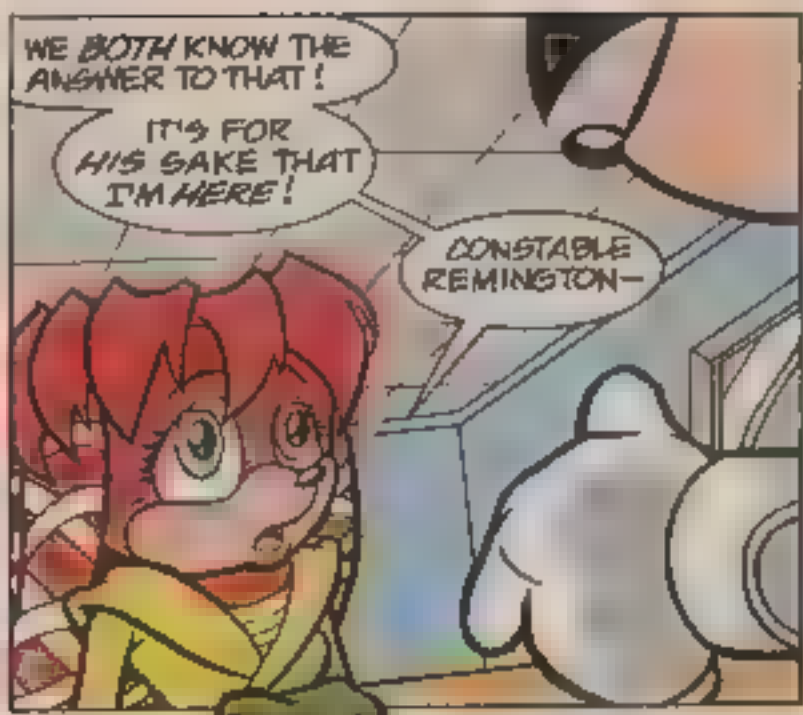
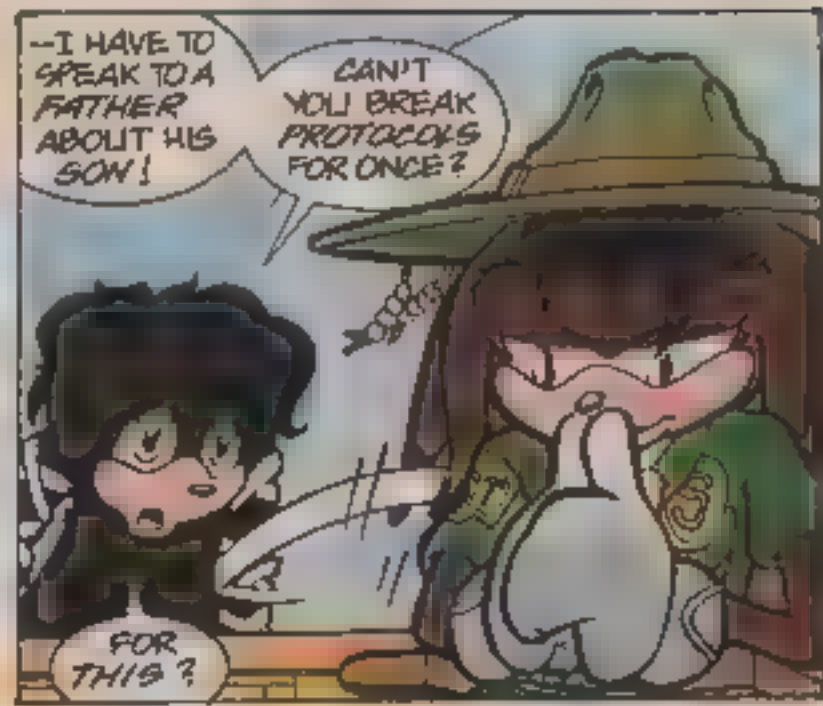
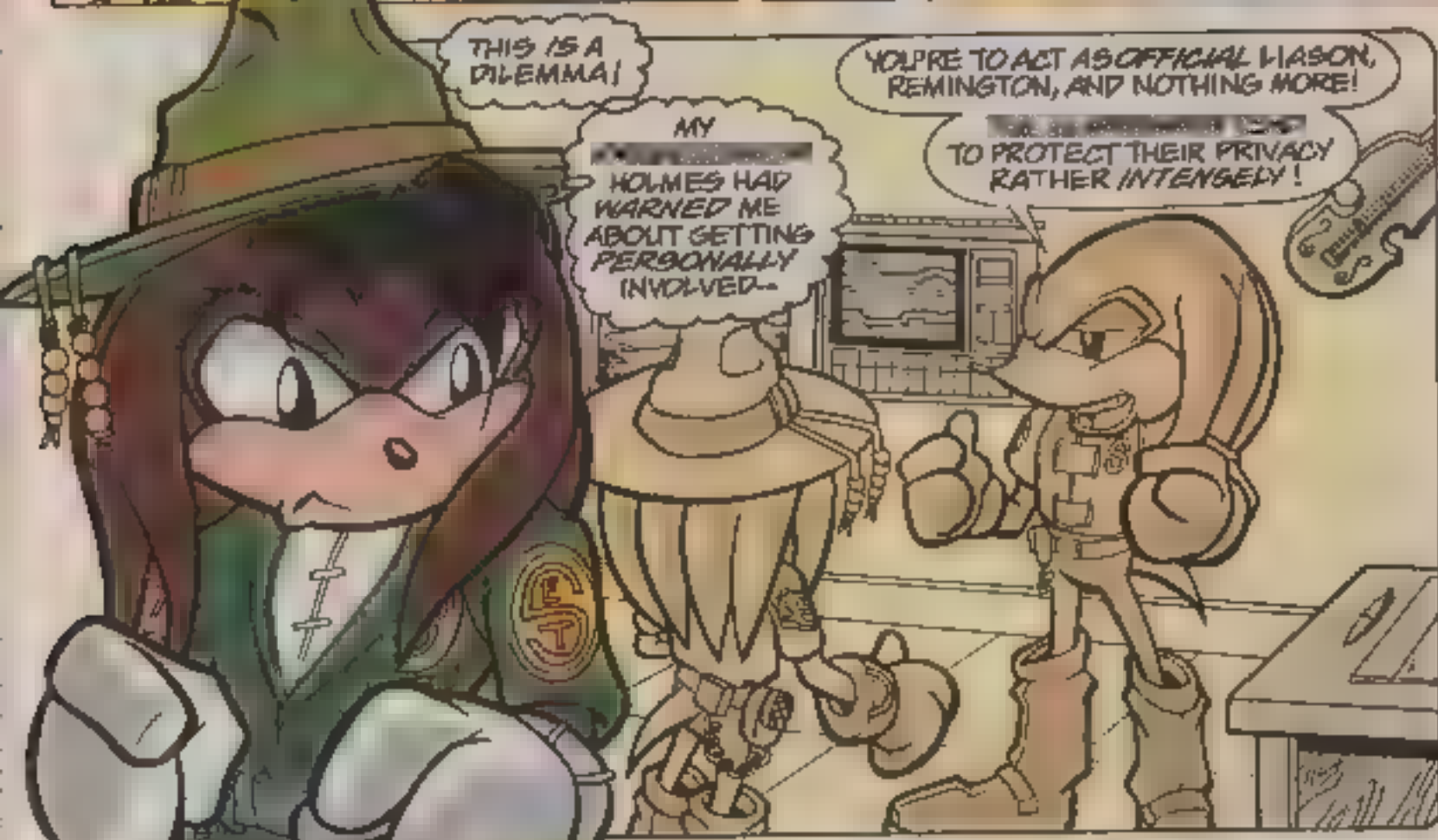
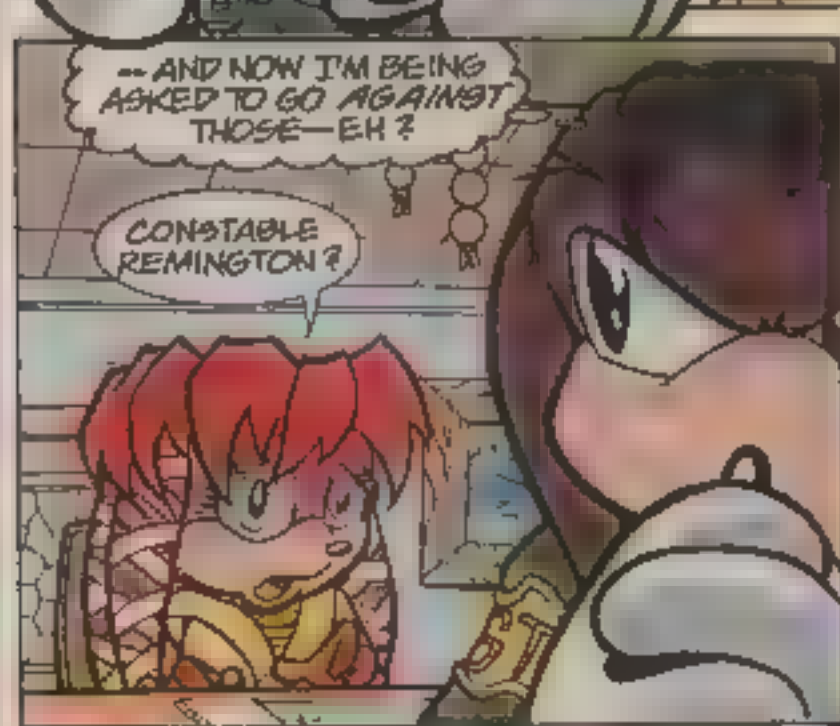
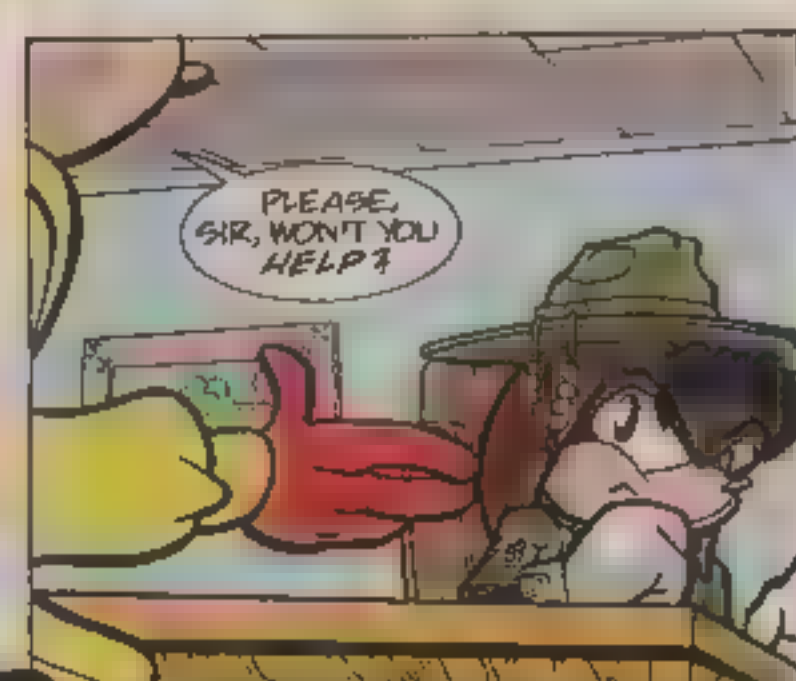
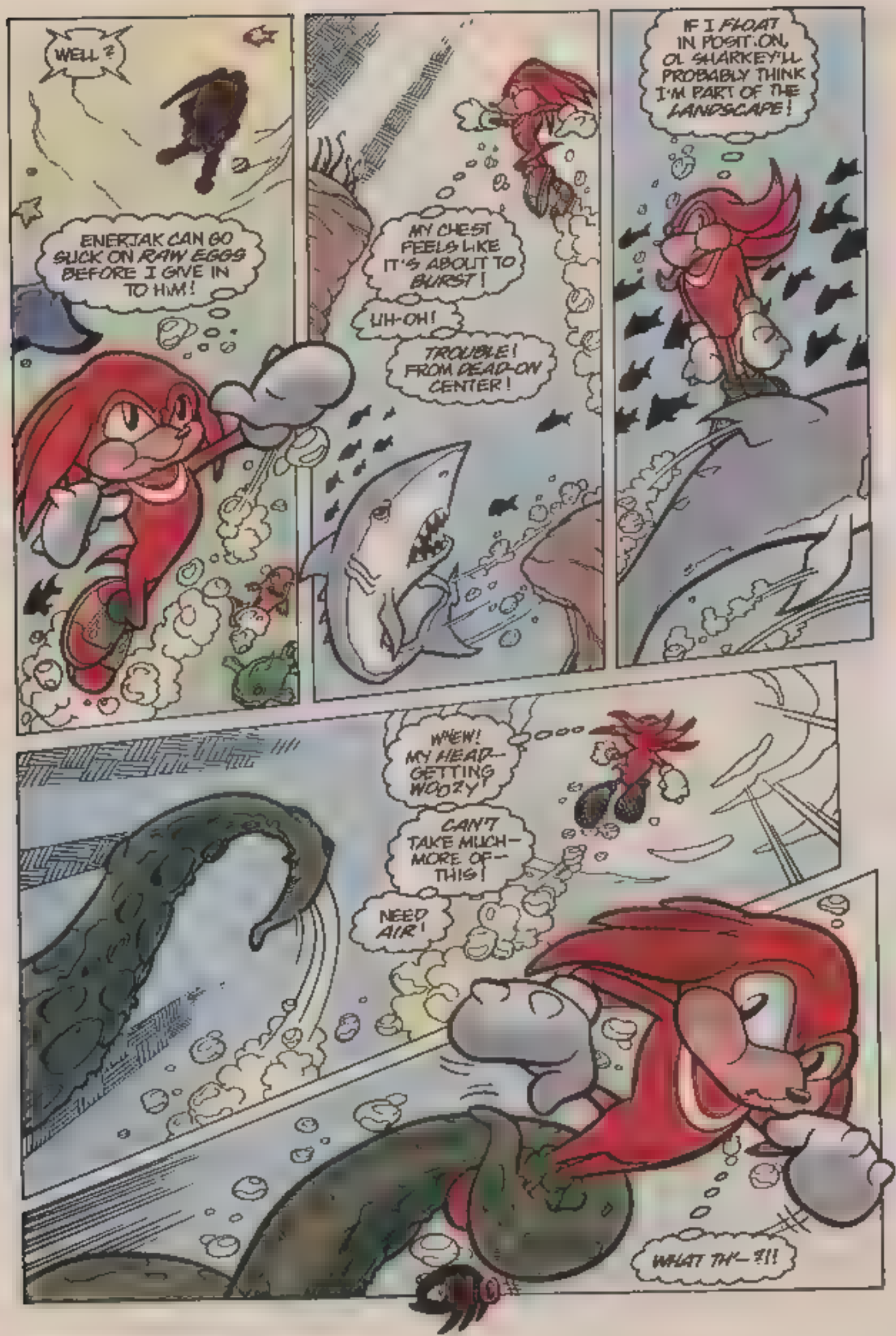

WE BOTH KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT!
IT'S FOR HIS SAKE THAT I'M HERE!
CONSTABLE REMINGTON—

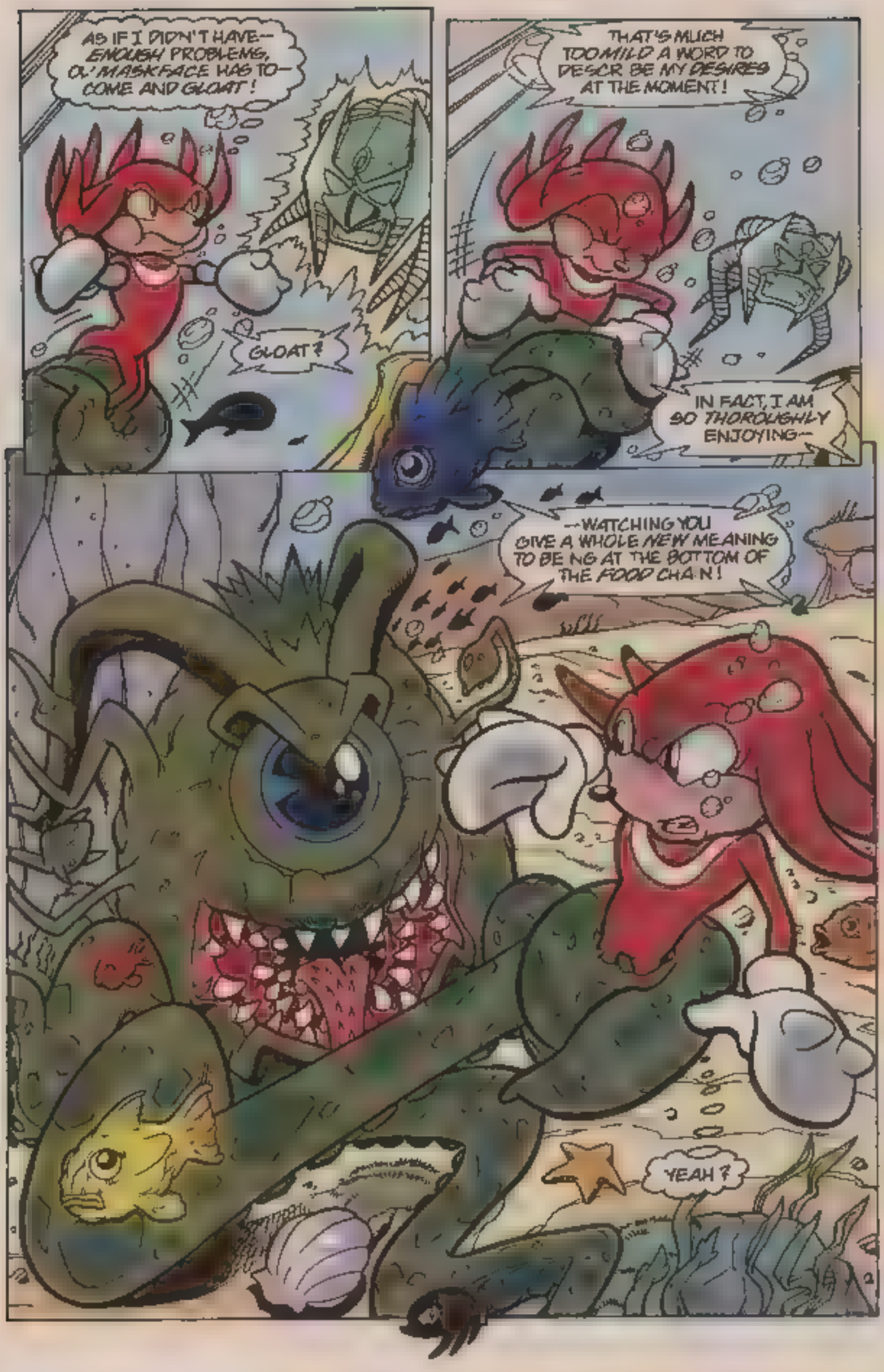

—I HAVE TO SPEAK TO A FATHER ABOUT HIS SON!
CAN'T YOU BREAK PROTOCOLS FOR ONCE?
FOR THIS?


THIS IS A DILEMMA!
YOU'RE TO ACT AS OFFICIAL WASON, REMINGTON, AND NOTHING MORE!
MY [redacted] HOLMES HAD WARNED ME ABOUT GETTING PERSONALLY INVOLVED—
[redacted] TO PROTECT THEIR PRIVACY RATHER INTENSELY!

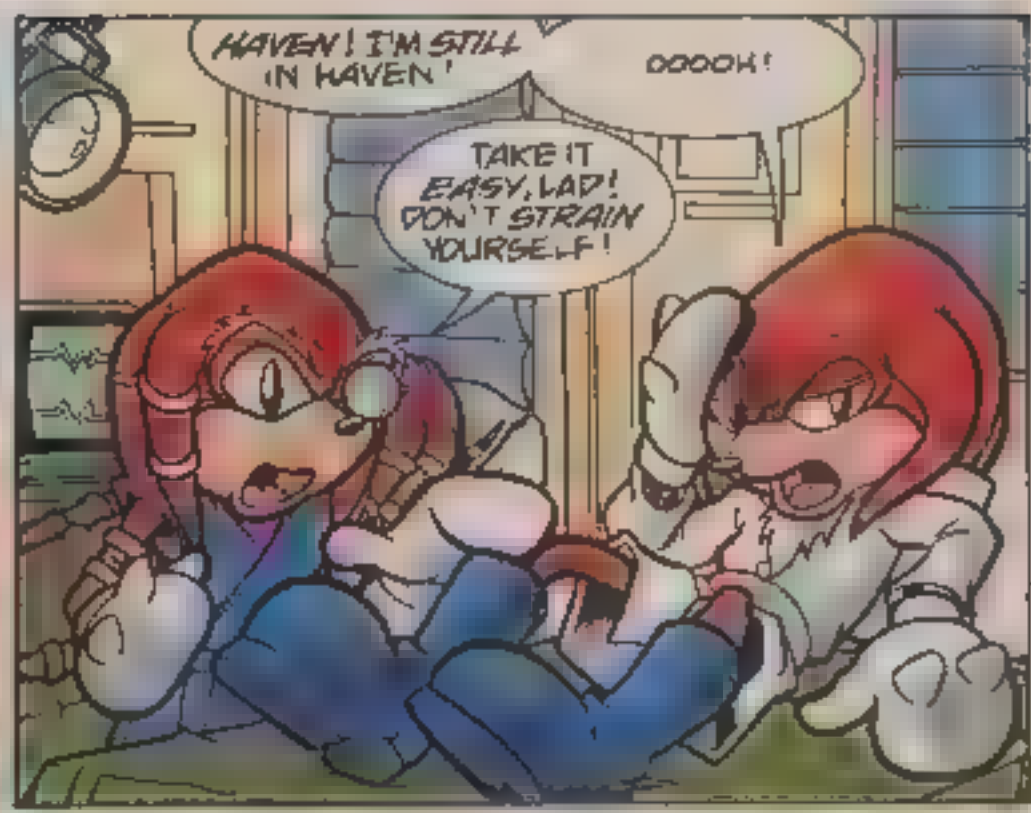

—AND NOW I'M BEING ASKED TO GO AGAINST THOSE—EH?
CONSTABLE REMINGTON?


PLEASE, SIR, WON'T YOU HELP?


WELL?
ENERTAK CAN GO SUCK ON RAW EGGS BEFORE I GIVE IN TO HIM!
MY CHEST FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO BURST!
UH-OH!
TROUBLE! FROM DEAD-ON CENTER!
IF I FLOAT IN POSITION, OL SHARKEY'LL PROBABLY THINK I'M PART OF THE LANDSCAPE!
WHEW! MY HEAD— GETTING WOOZY!
CAN'T TAKE MUCH— MORE OF— THIS!
NEED AIR!
WHAT TH—?!!

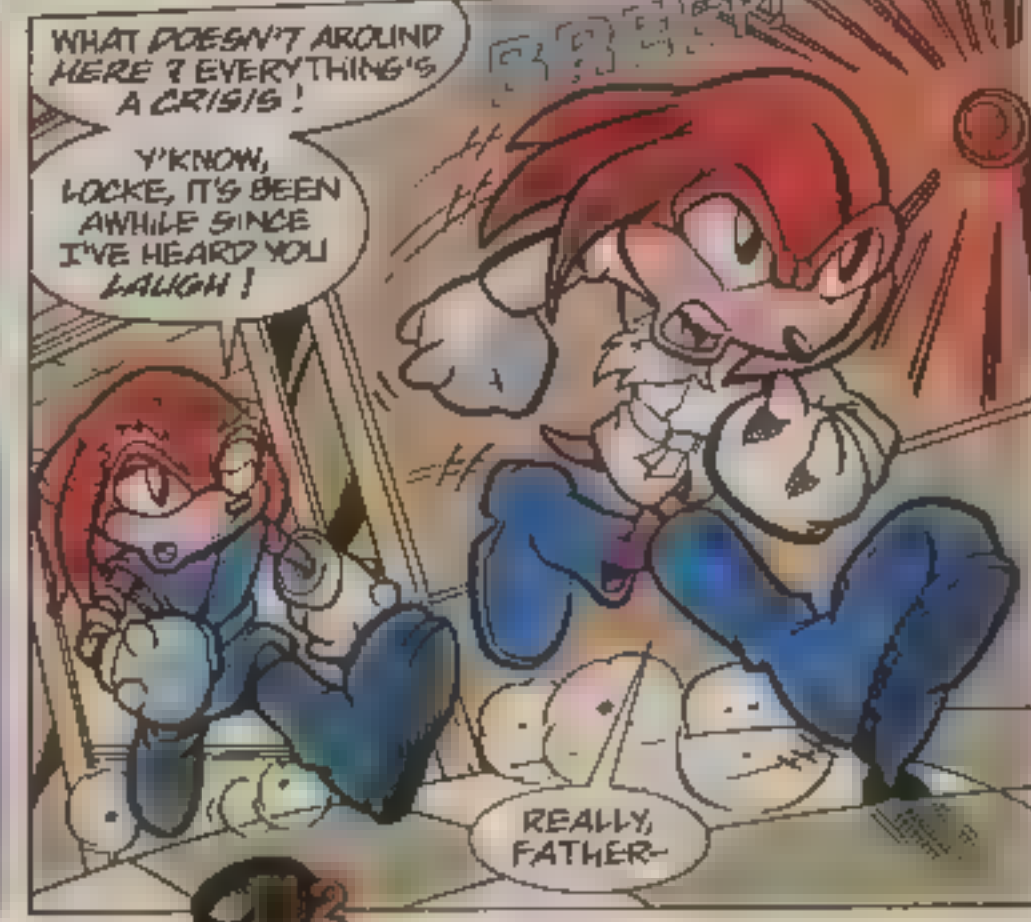

AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE— ENOUGH PROBLEMS, OL' MASKFACE HAS TO— COME AND GLOAT!
GLOAT?
THAT'S MUCH TOO MILD A WORD TO DESCR BE MY DESIRES AT THE MOMENT!
IN FACT, I AM SO THOROUGHLY ENJOYING—
—WATCHING YOU GIVE A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO BE NG AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FOOD CHA N!
YEAH?

"WELL, IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER!"
WHA-? WH-WHERE AM I?
EASY, LOCKE! YOU'RE IN SICK BAY!


HAVEN! I'M STILL IN HAVEN!
OOOOH!
TAKE IT EASY, LAD! DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF!

WHAT ABOUT HAWKING? IS HE--?
STILL IN A COMA!
WHAT THE DEVIL HAPPENED, LOCKE?

THE ALARM!
I SUGGEST WE TABLE OUR DISCUSSION, FATHER! THAT SOUNDS SERIOUS!
BREEP BREEP BREEP


WHAT DOESN'T AROUND HERE? EVERYTHING'S A CRISIS!
Y'KNOW, LOCKE, IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I'VE HEARD YOU LAUGH!
REALLY, FATHER-

--THERE HASN'T BEEN ANYTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT IN A LONG TIME!

WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT!

THE DARK SIDE OF OUR FAMILY STRIKES AGAIN!

SAY, ISN'T THAT- ?

YES, FATHER, IT LOOKS LIKE KNUCKLES' NEW FRIEND--

--AND IT APPEARS SHE'S REJOINED HER FORMER COMRADES!

SOMETHING'S VERY WRONG HERE!

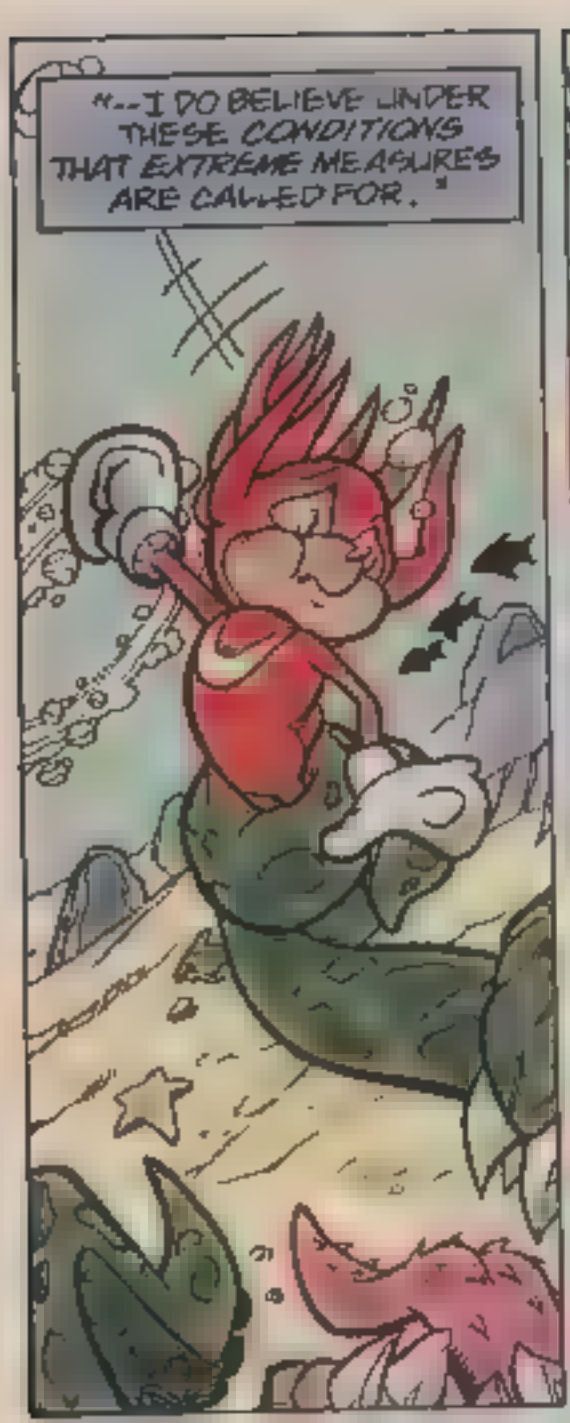
NO SIGN OF KNUCKLES THE DARK LEGION GETTING READY TO STRIKE--!

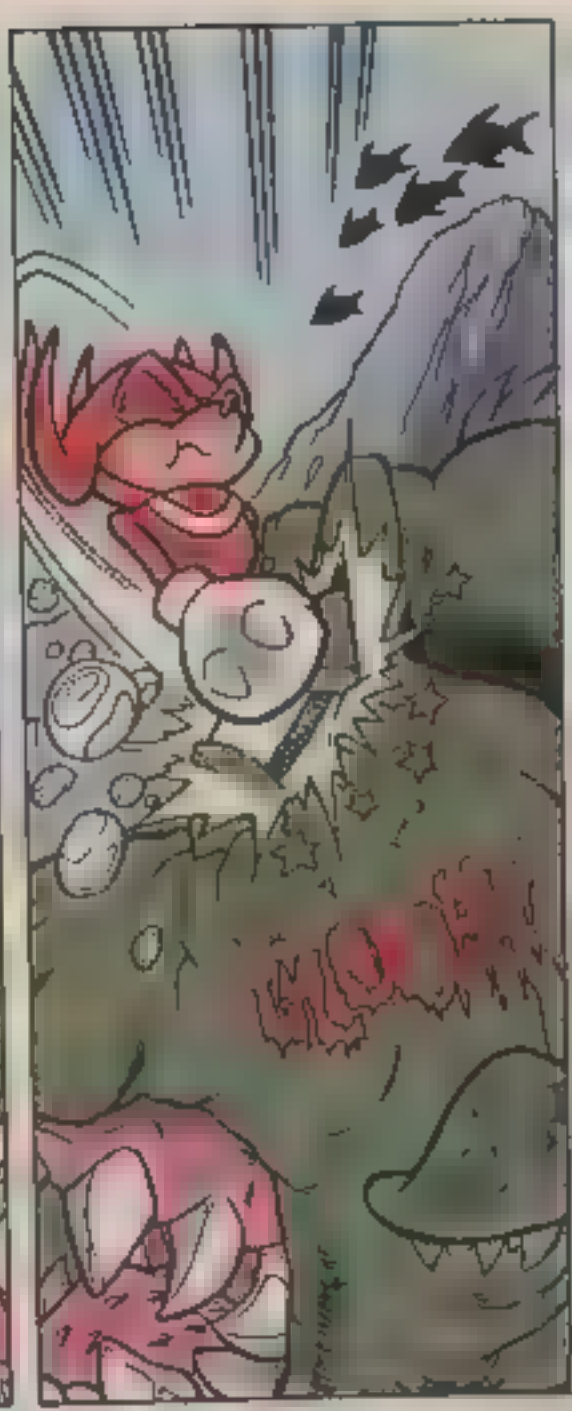
YES, BUT STRIKE WHERE?

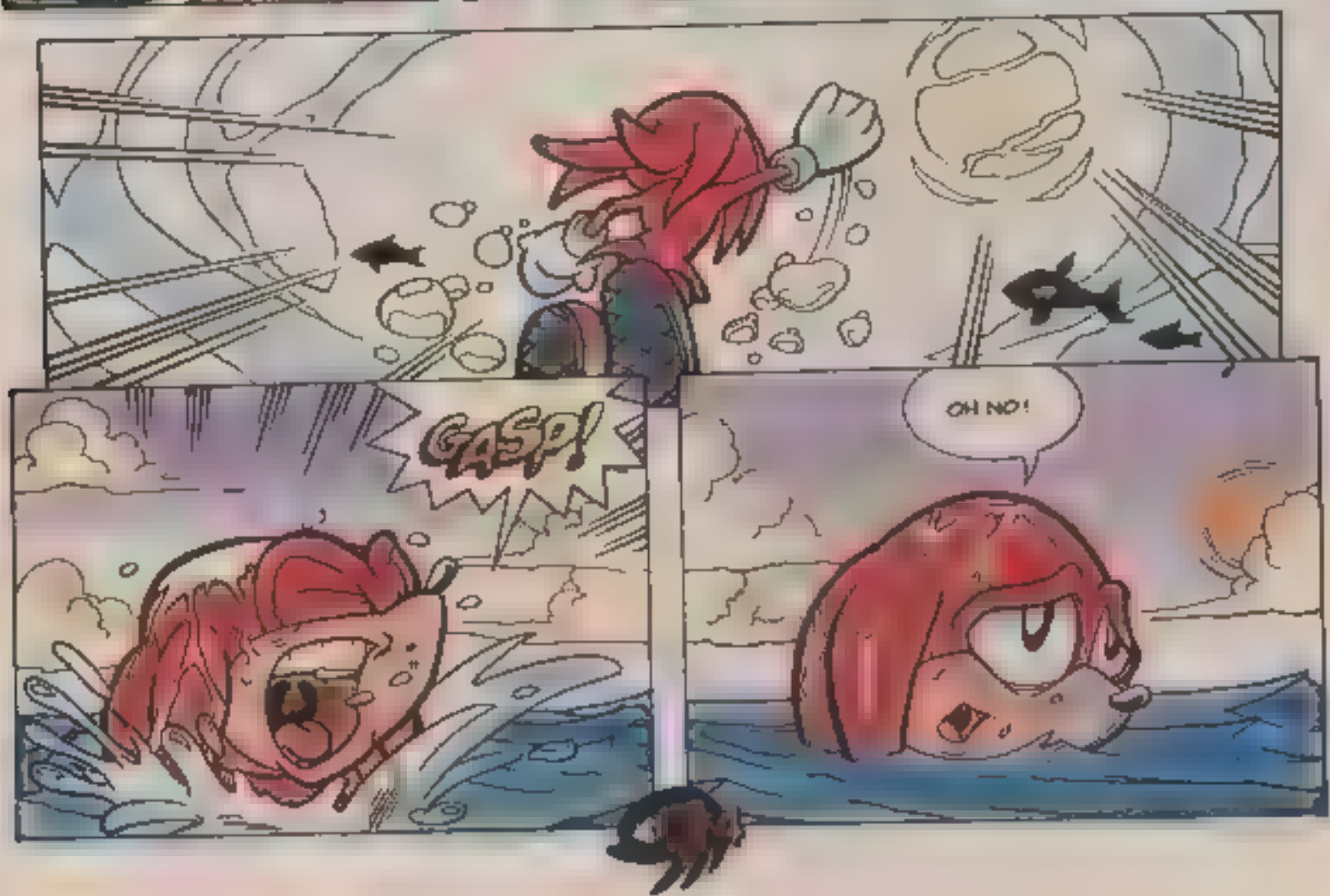
WHERE ELSE BUT--

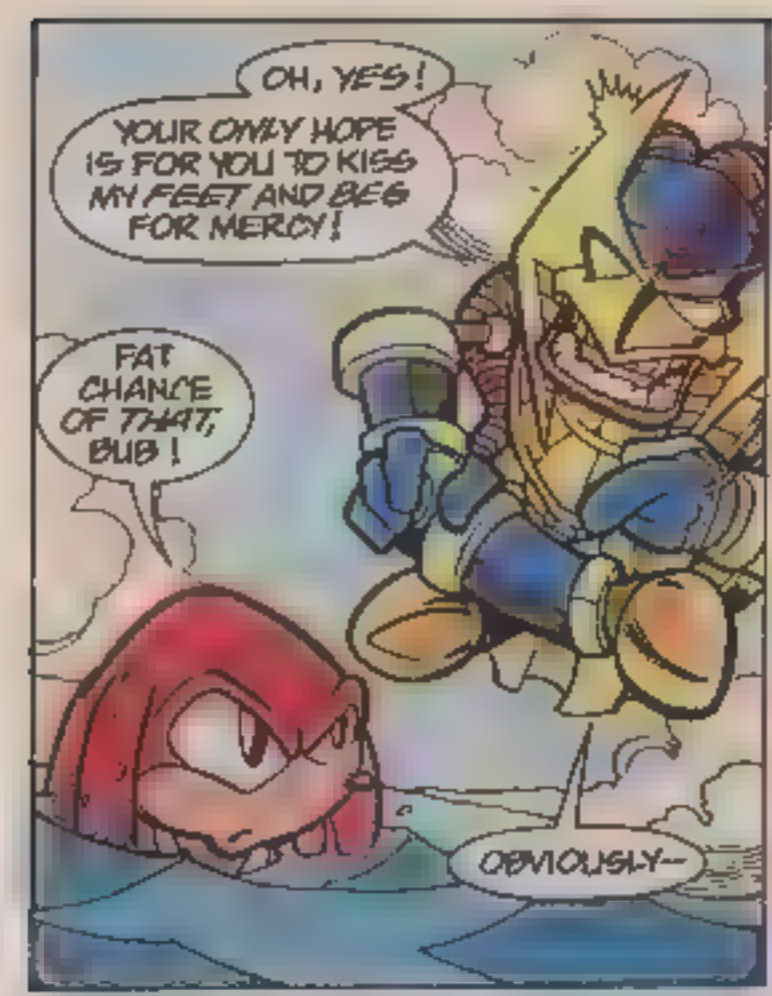
ECHIDNAOPOLIS!

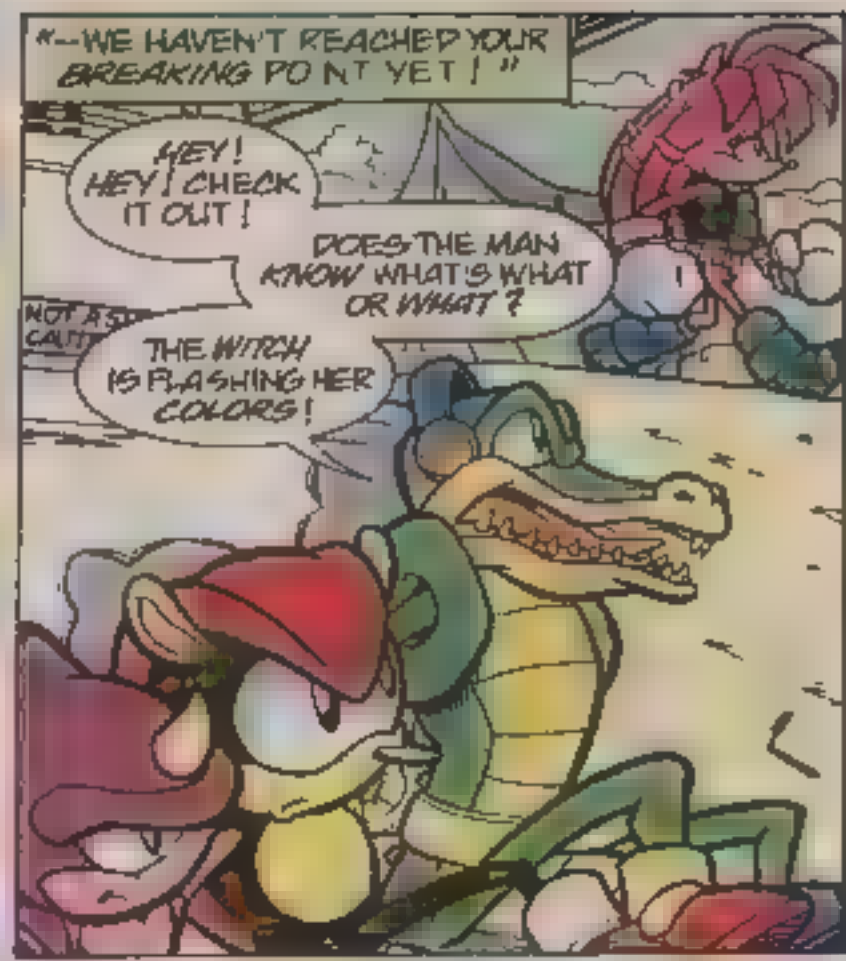
IN MY OPINION--

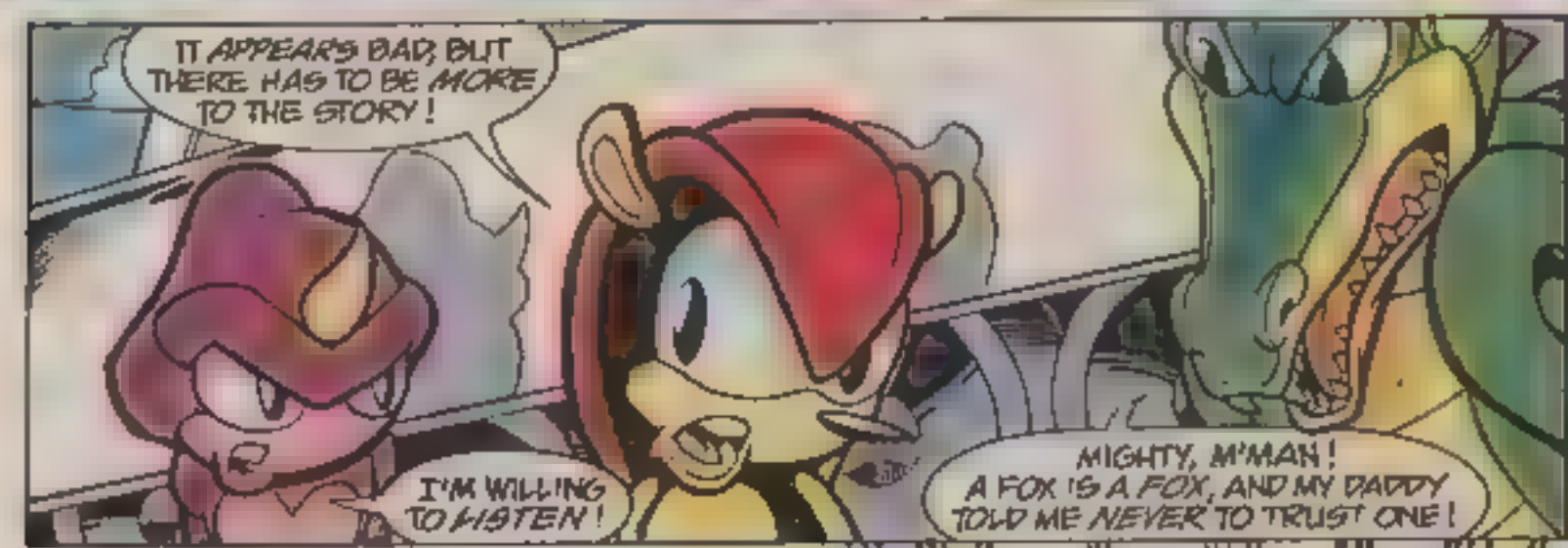

"...I DO BELIEVE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS THAT EXTREME MEASURES ARE CALLED FOR."

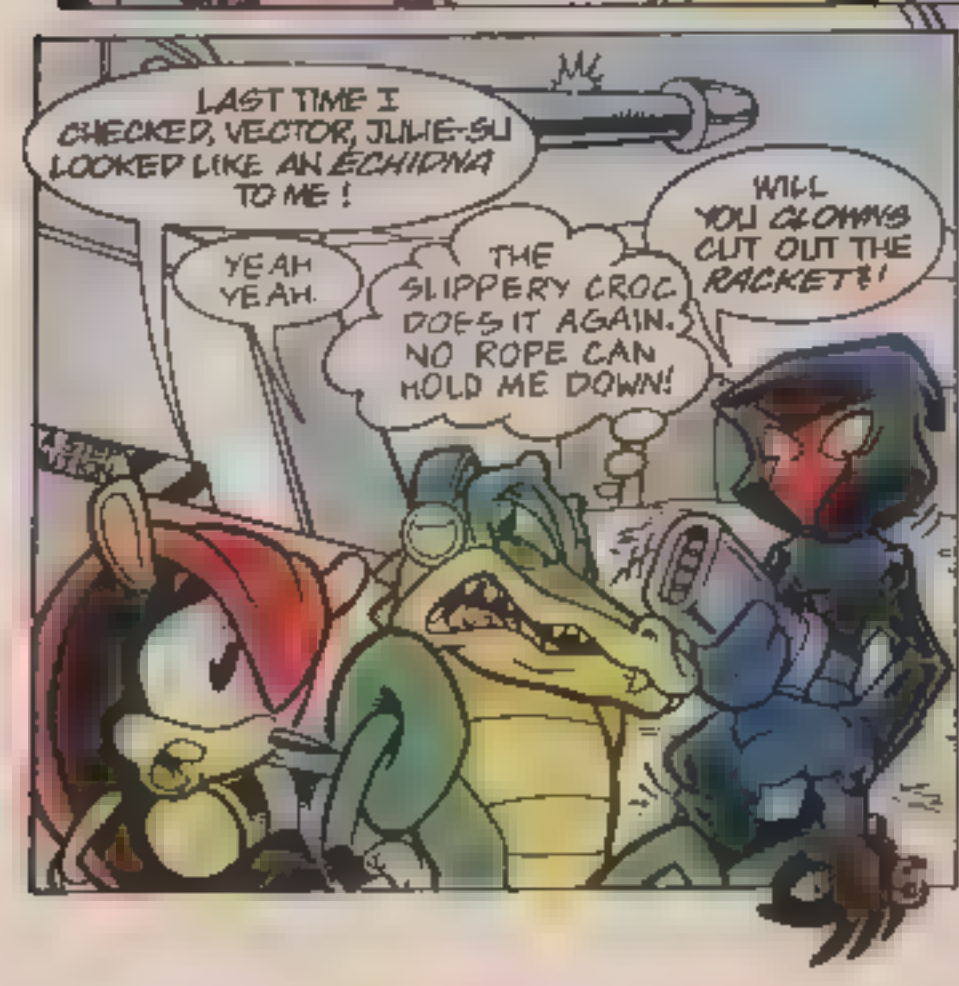



GASP!
OH NO!


OH, YES!
YOUR ONLY HOPE IS FOR YOU TO KISS MY FEET AND BEG FOR MERCY!
FAT CHANCE OF THAT, BUB!
OBVIOUSLY--


"--WE HAVEN'T REACHED YOUR BREAKING POINT YET!"
HEY! HEY! CHECK IT OUT!
DOES THE MAN KNOW WHAT'S WHAT OR WHAT?
THE WITCH IS FLASHING HER COLORS!

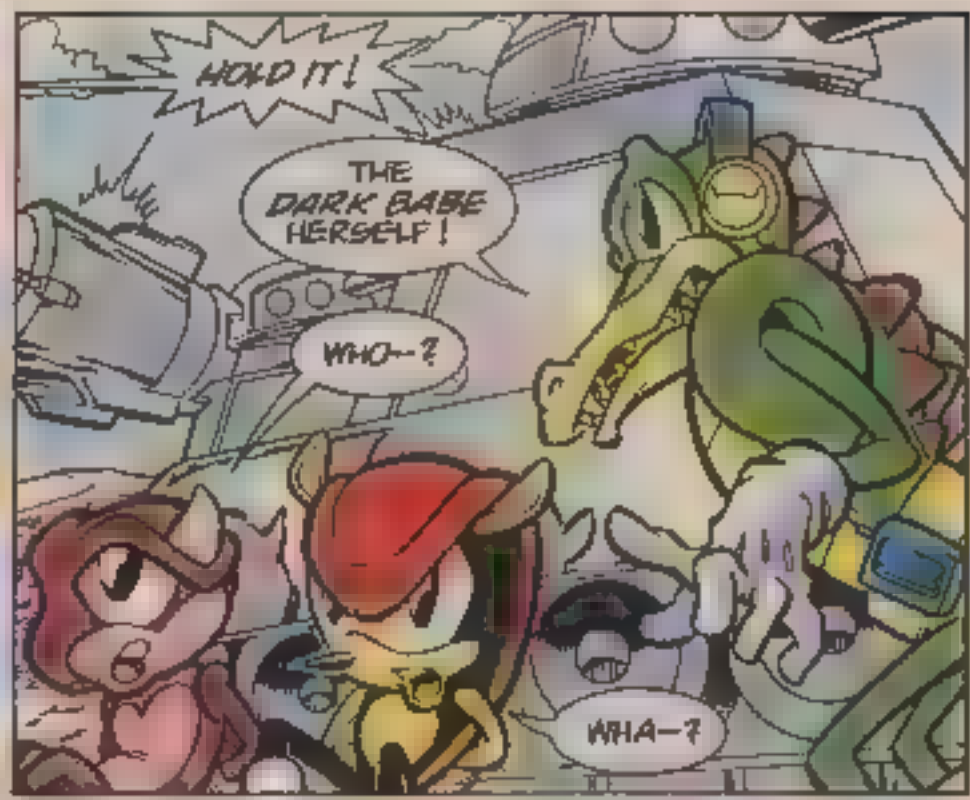

IT APPEARS BAD, BUT THERE HAS TO BE MORE TO THE STORY!
I'M WILLING TO LISTEN!
MIGHTY, M'MAN! A FOX IS A FOX, AND MY DADDY TOLD ME NEVER TO TRUST ONE!

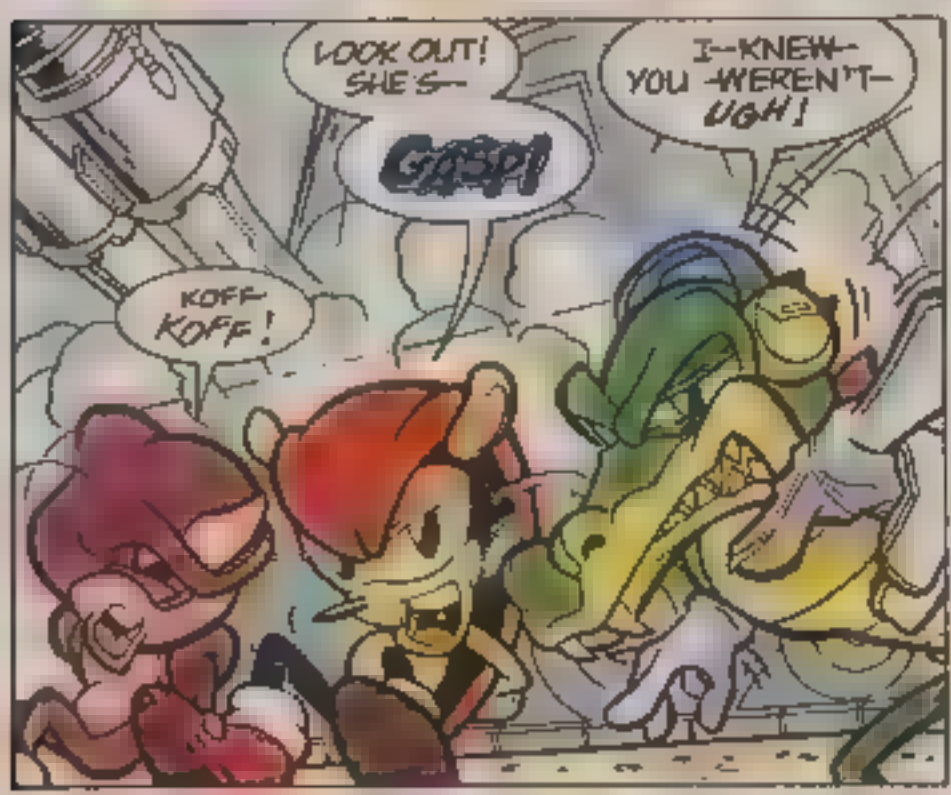

LAST TIME I CHECKED, VECTOR, JULIE-SU LOOKED LIKE AN ECHIDNA TO ME!
YEAH YEAH.
THE SLIPPERY CROC DOES IT AGAIN. NO ROPE CAN HOLD ME DOWN!
WILL YOU CLOWNS CUT OUT THE RACKET?!

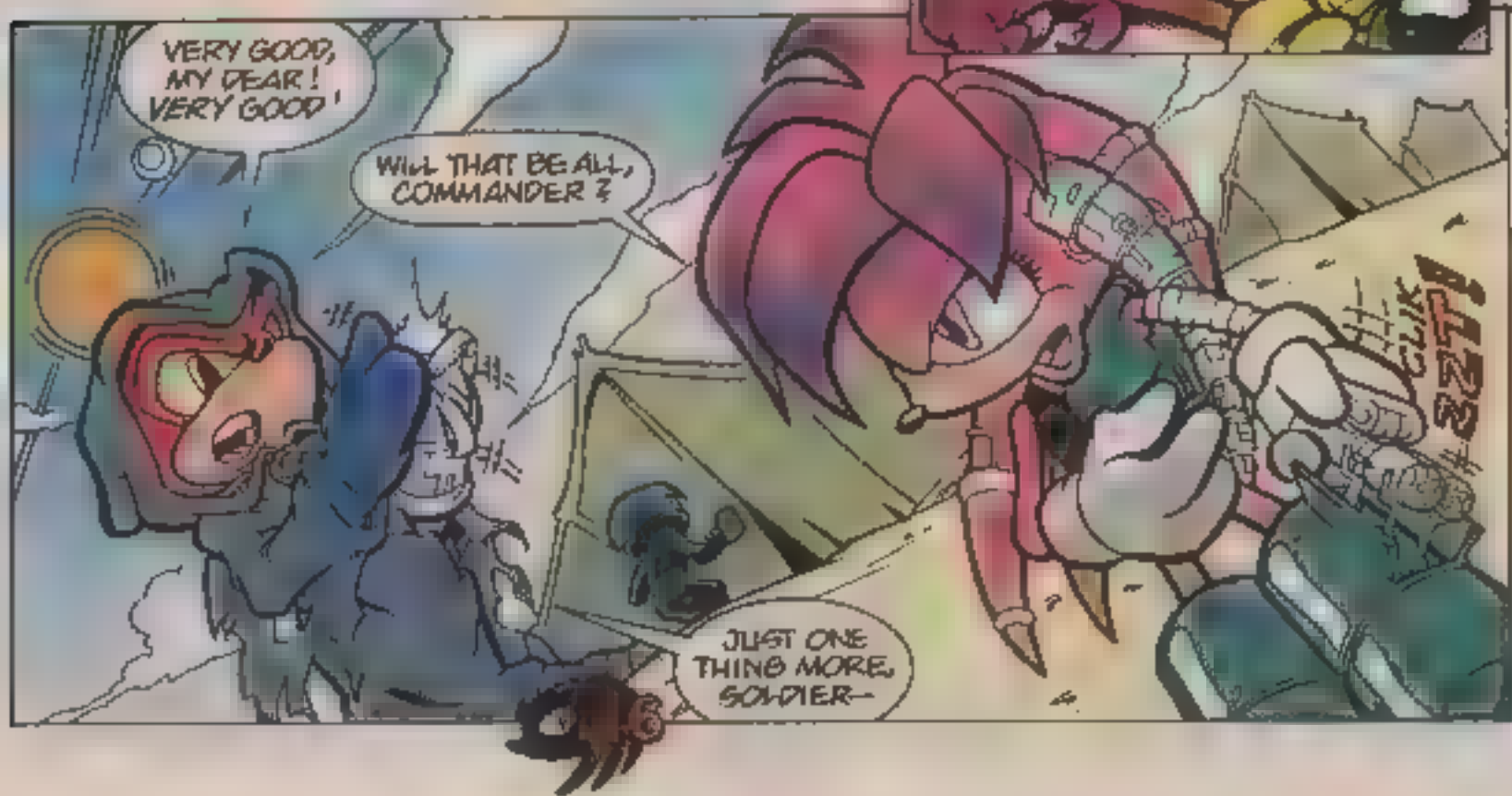
SINCE YOU DON'T LIKE MY RAP--
--WHY NOT GRAB A NAP!
SNATCH!

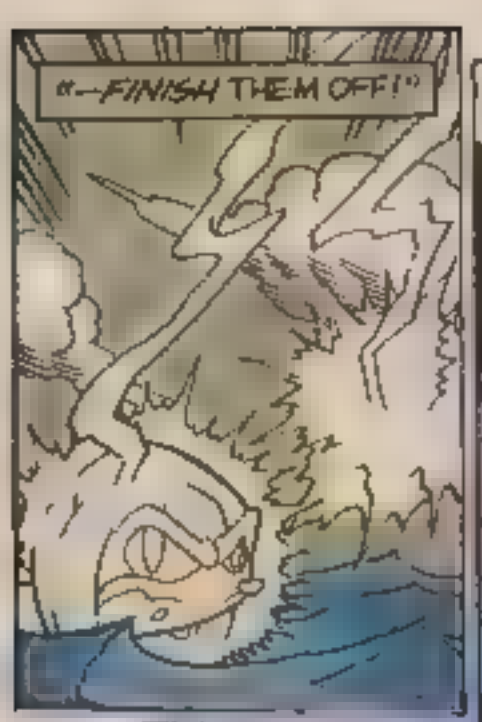
BONK!

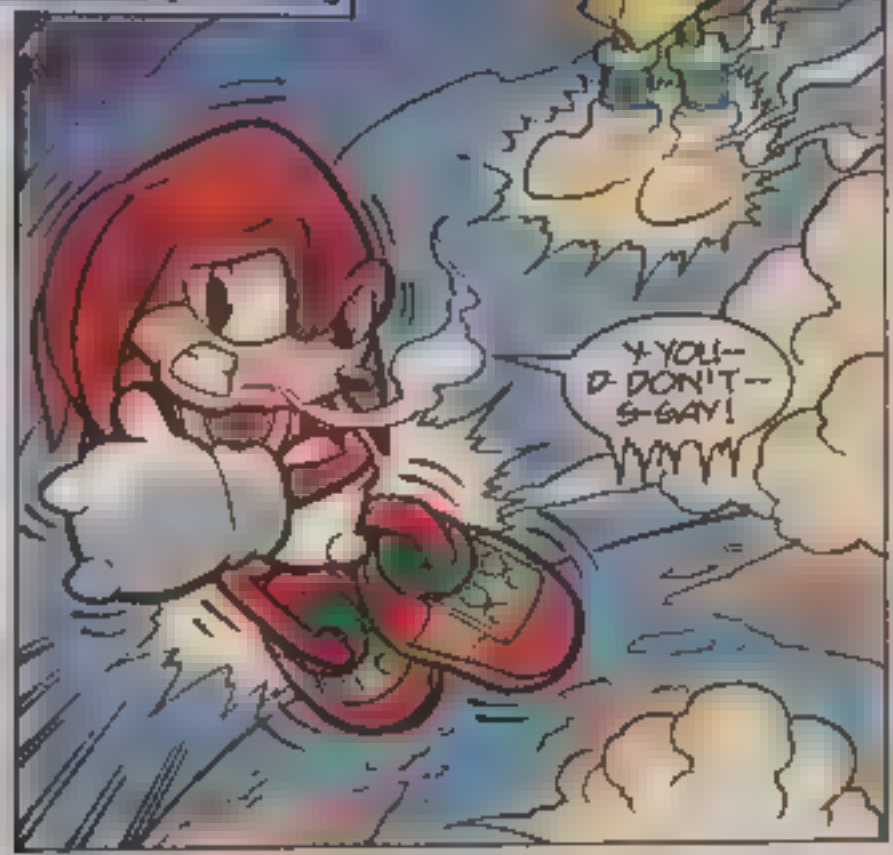
SWEET DREAMS, PIGEON!
UNNGH!

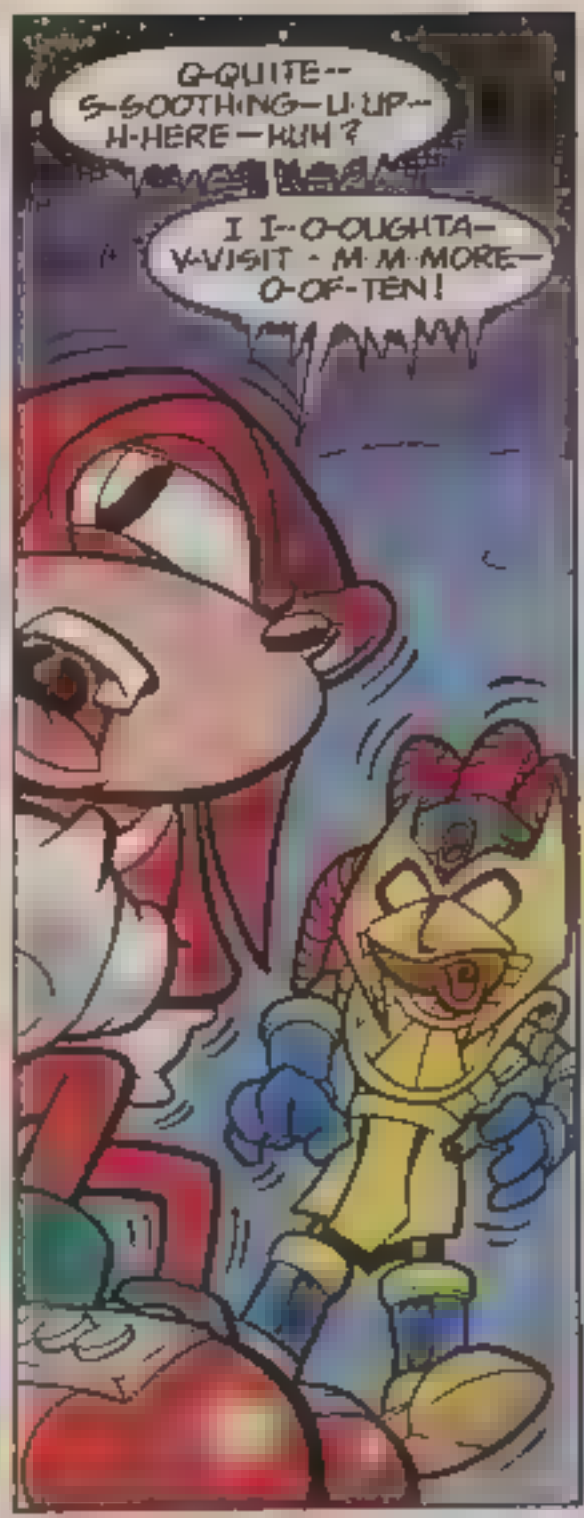

HOLD IT!
THE DARK BABE HERSELF!
WHO—?
WHA—?

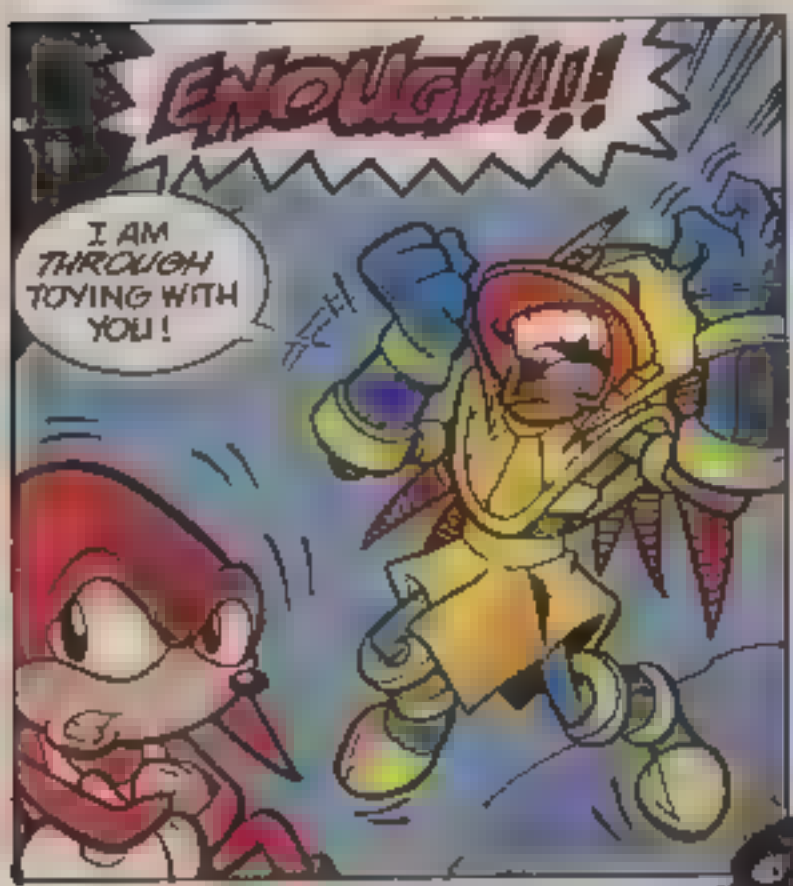

LOOK OUT! SHE'S—
GASP!
I—KNEW— YOU —WEREN'T— UGH!
KOFF KOFF!

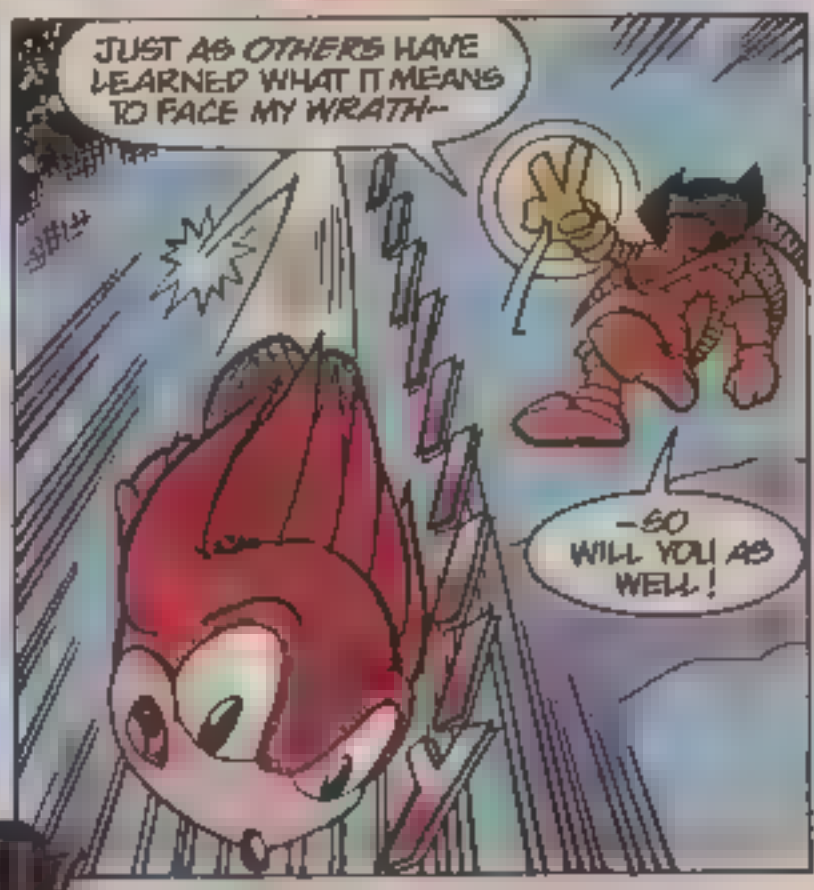

VERY GOOD, MY DEAR! VERY GOOD!
WILL THAT BE ALL, COMMANDER?
JUST ONE THING MORE, SOLDIER—
CLIK
SZZT!


"--FINISH THEM OFF!"

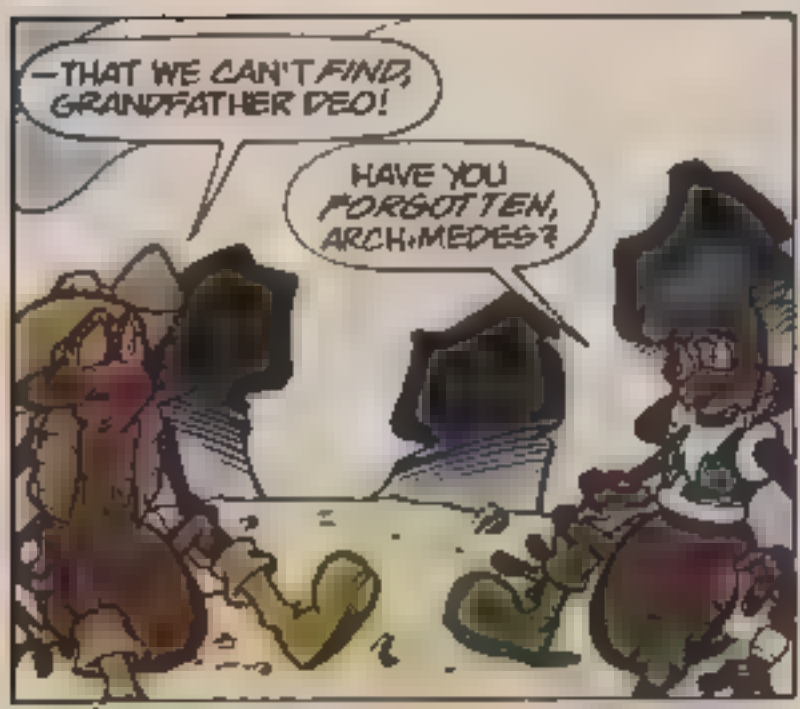

LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOUR BRAVADO DOES YOU HERE!
WE'RE AT LEAST 30,000 METERS ABOVE THE SURFACE OF THE FLOATING ISLAND!
Y-YOU-- D-DON'T-- S-SAY!

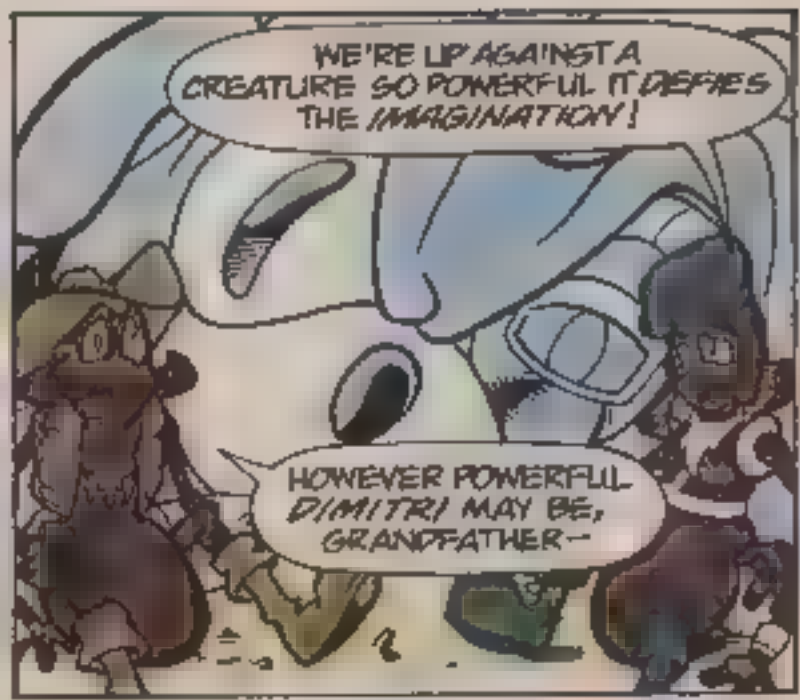

Q-QUITE-- S-SOOTHING--U-UP-- H-HERE--HUH?
I I--O-OUGHTA-- V-VISIT - M-M-MORE-- O-OF-TEN!

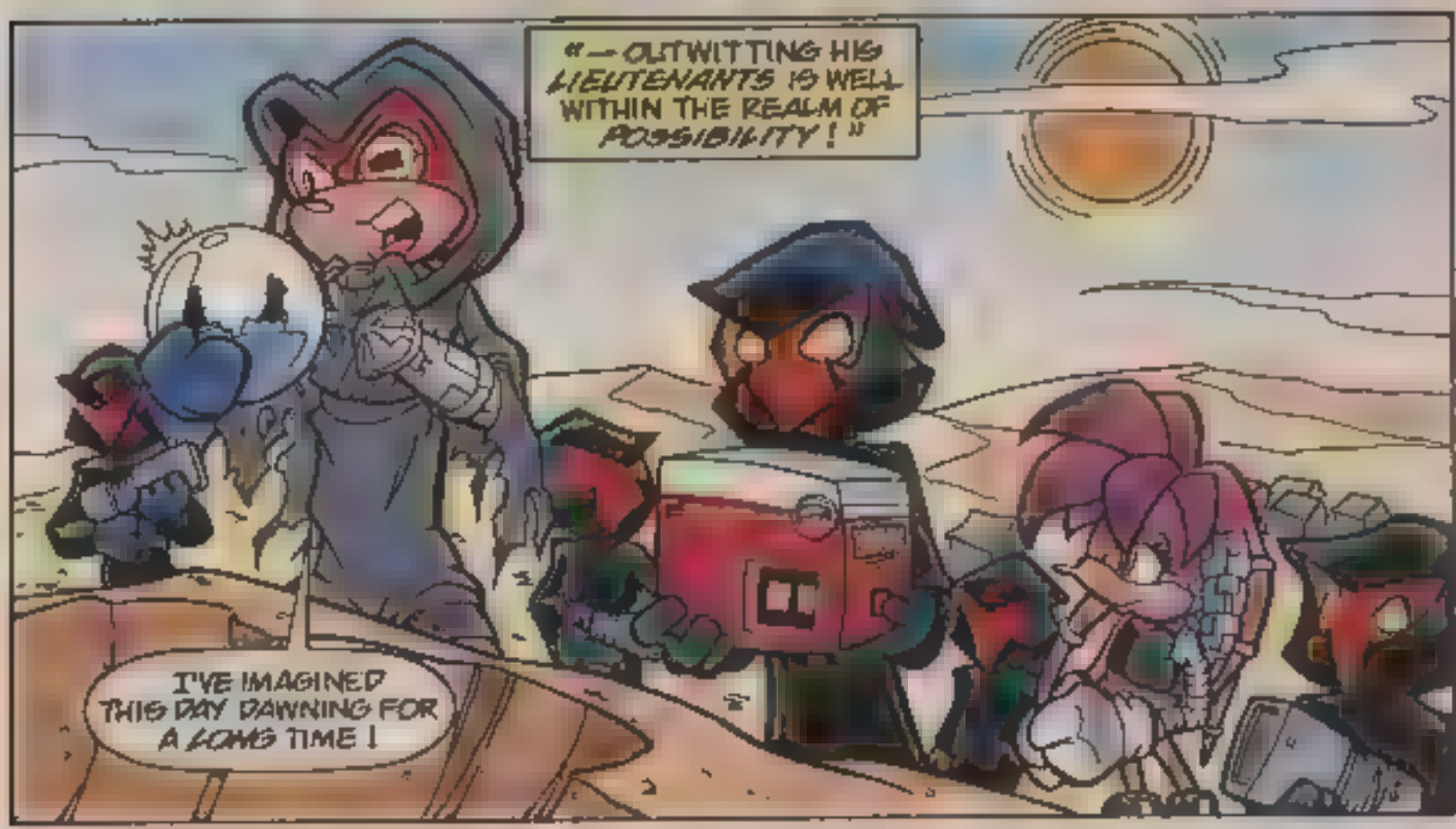

ENOUGH!!!
I AM THROUGH TOYING WITH YOU!

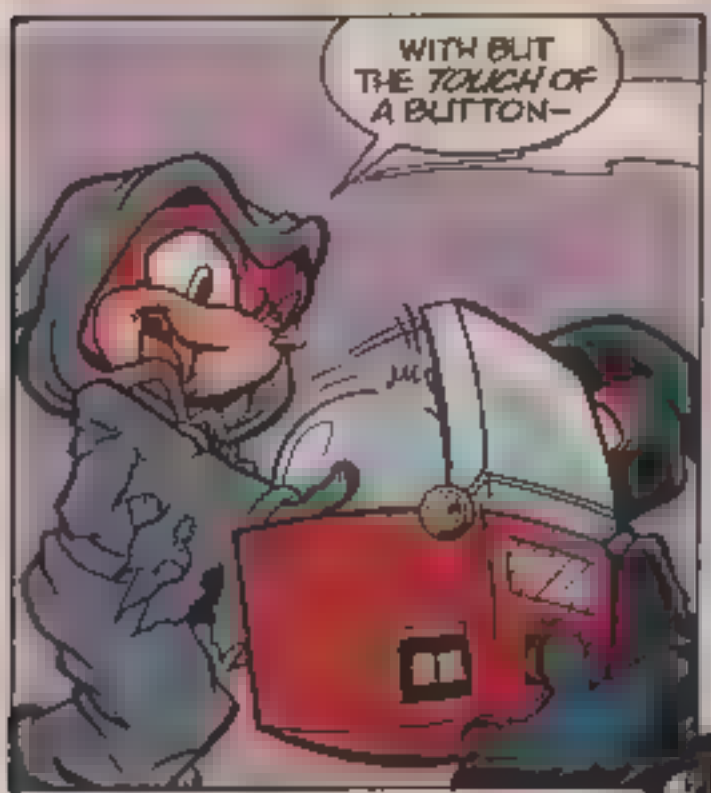

JUST AS OTHERS HAVE LEARNED WHAT IT MEANS TO FACE MY WRATH--
--SO WILL YOU AS WELL!

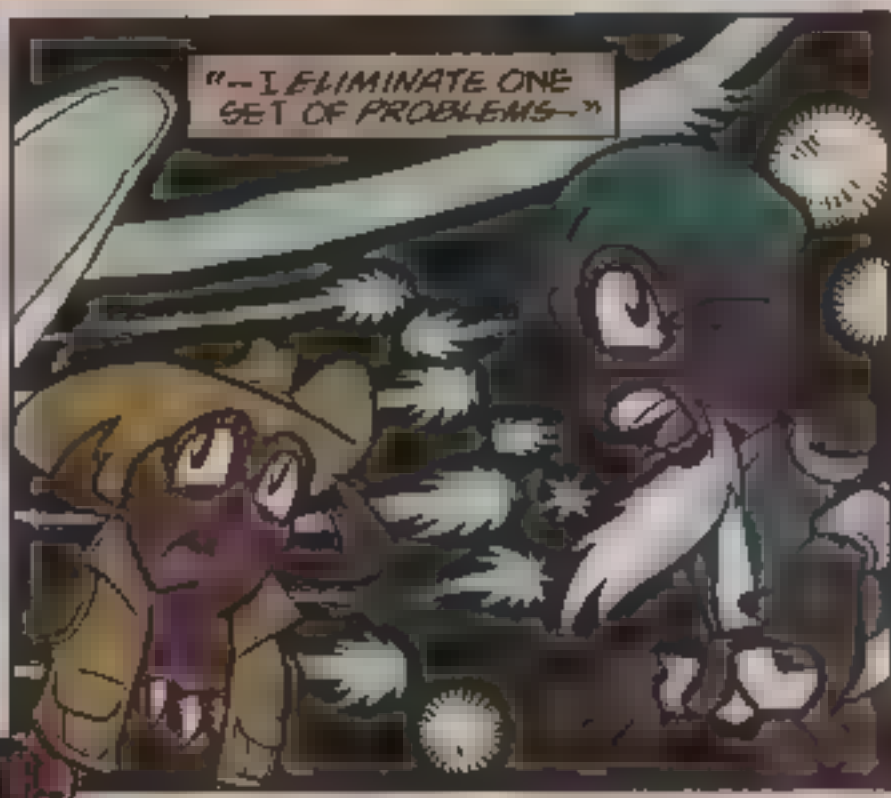
"I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE POSSIBILITY OF THERE ANY WAY OUT OF THIS—"


—THAT WE CAN'T FIND, GRANDFATHER DEO!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, ARCH-MEDES?


WE'RE UP AGAINST A CREATURE SO POWERFUL IT DEFIES THE IMAGINATION!
HOWEVER POWERFUL DIMITRI MAY BE, GRANDFATHER—


"—OUTWITTING HIS LIEUTENANTS IS WELL WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY!"
I'VE IMAGINED THIS DAY DAWNING FOR A LONG TIME!

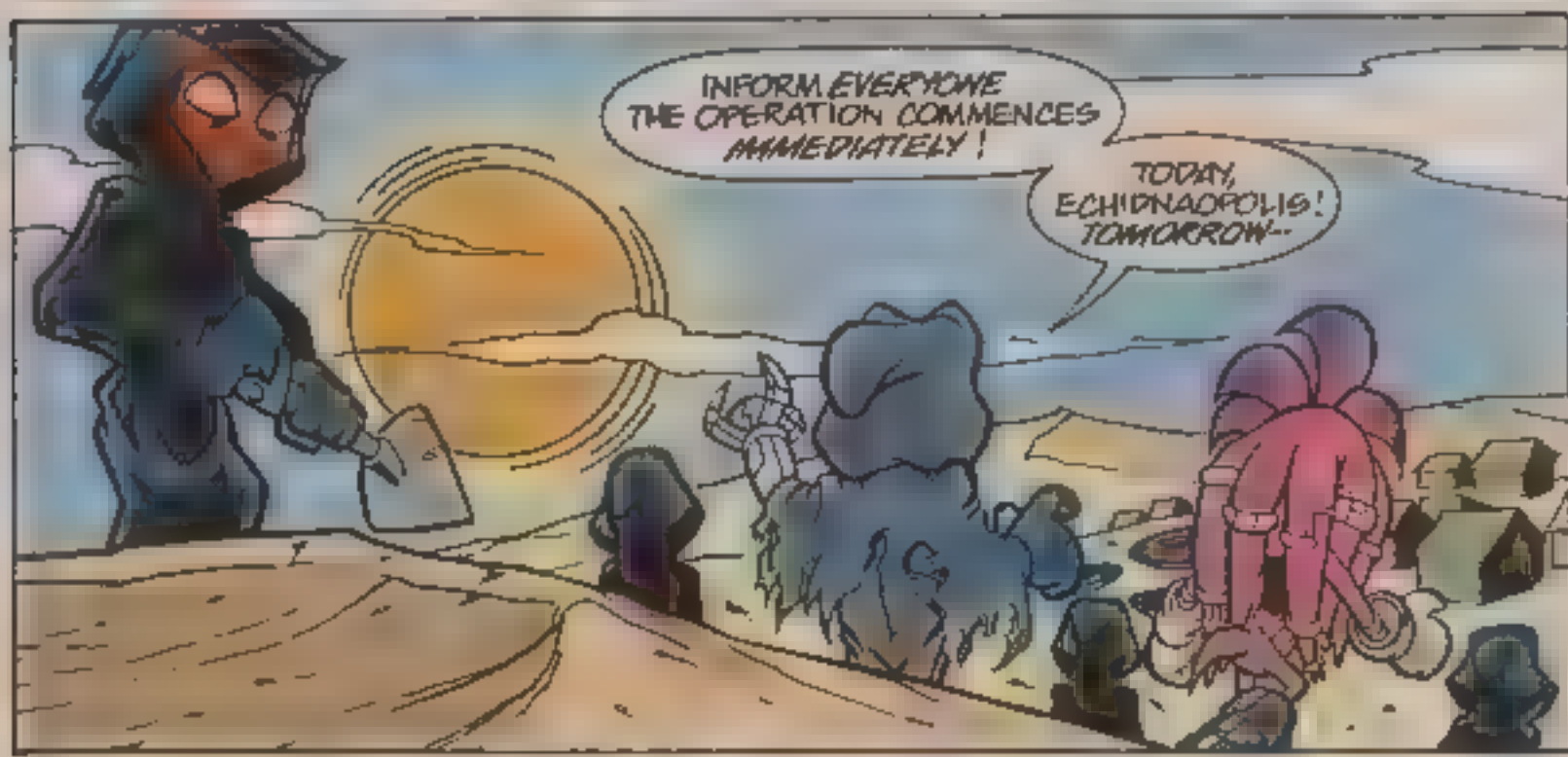

WITH BUT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON—


"—I ELIMINATE ONE SET OF PROBLEMS—"

—ALLOWING US TO FOCUS ATTENTION—

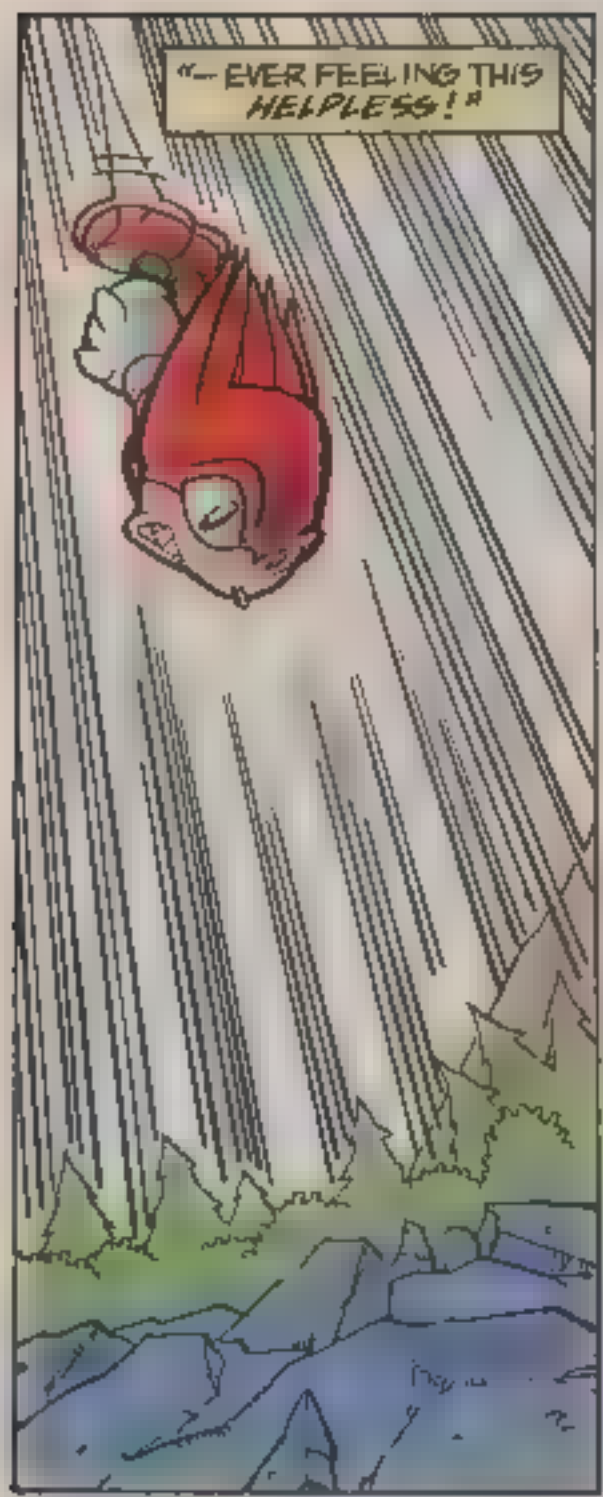
—ON RECLAIMING THAT—

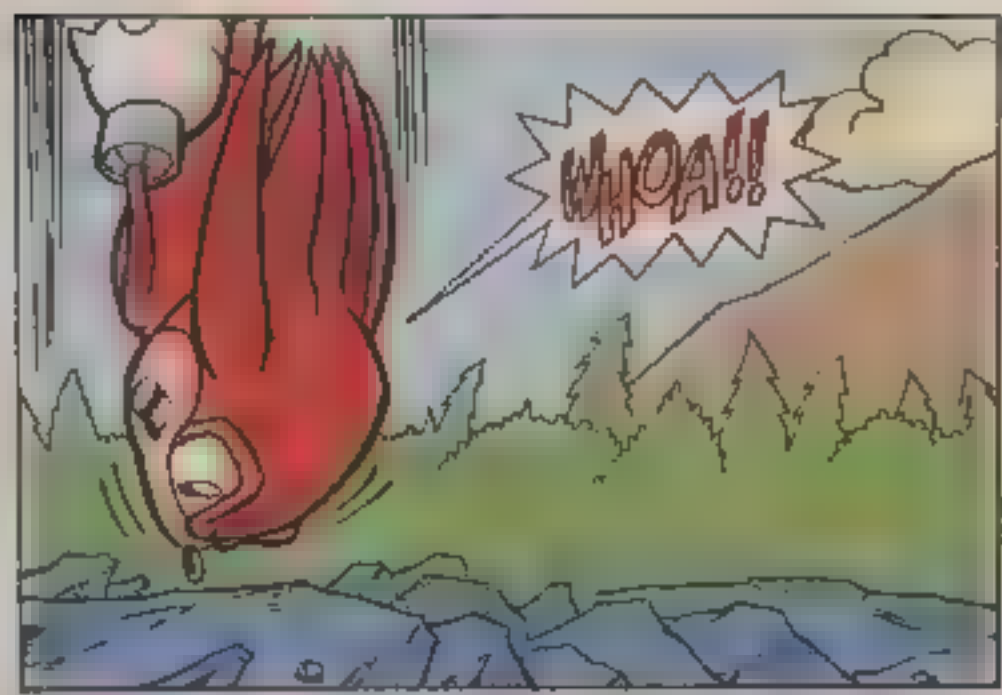
—WHICH SHOULD BE OURS!

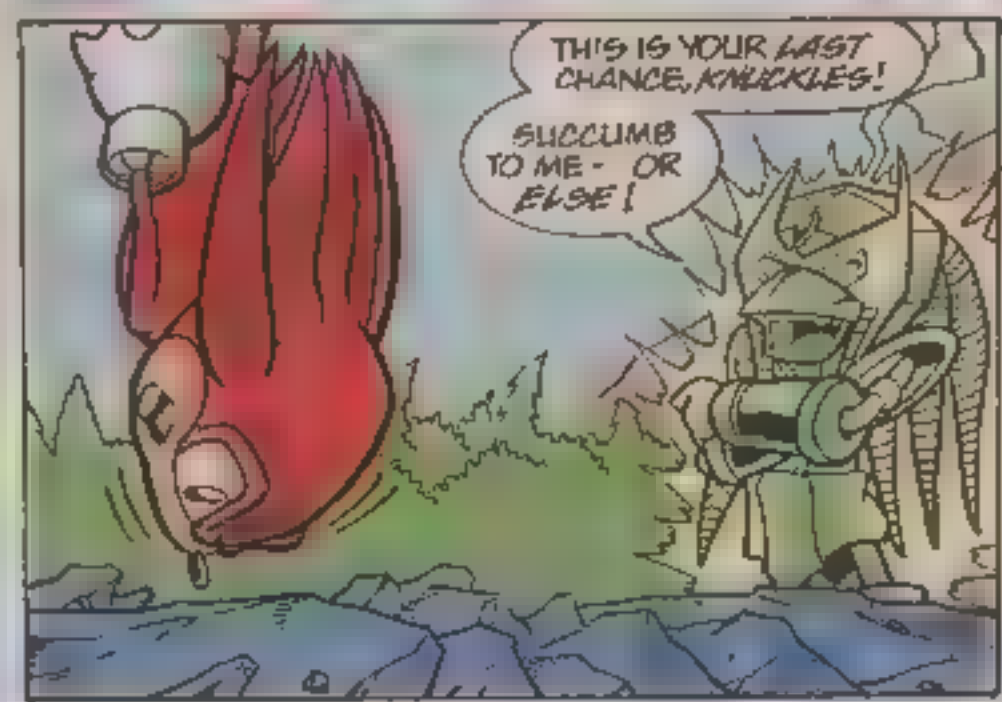

INFORM EVERYONE THE OPERATION COMMENCES IMMEDIATELY!
TODAY, ECHIDNAOPOLIS! TOMORROW—

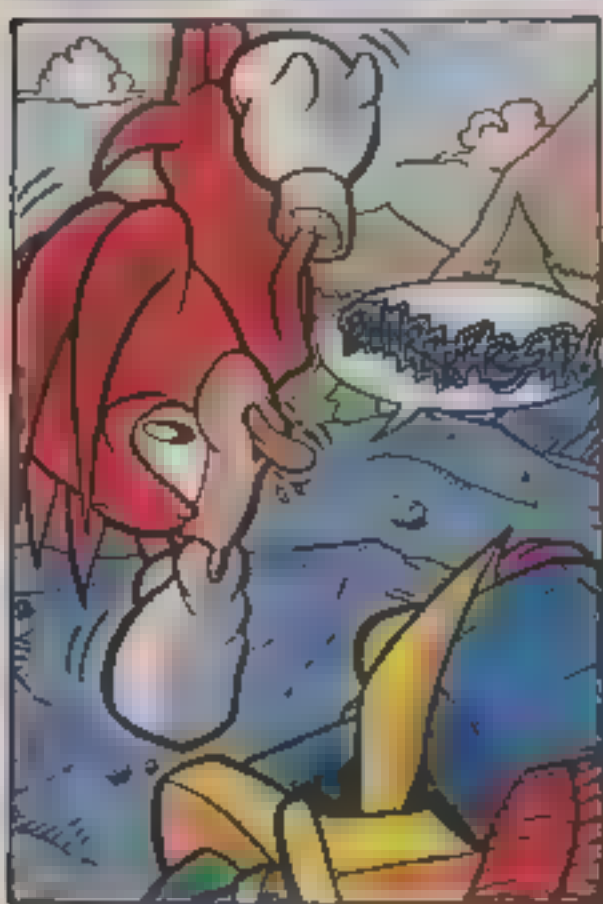
"...THE WORLD!"
NO WAY TO TELEPORT!
THE ELECTROMAGNET FIELD IS EVEN STRONGER IN HERE!
EASY, LAD! WE'VE BEEN IN TOUGH SPOTS BEFORE!

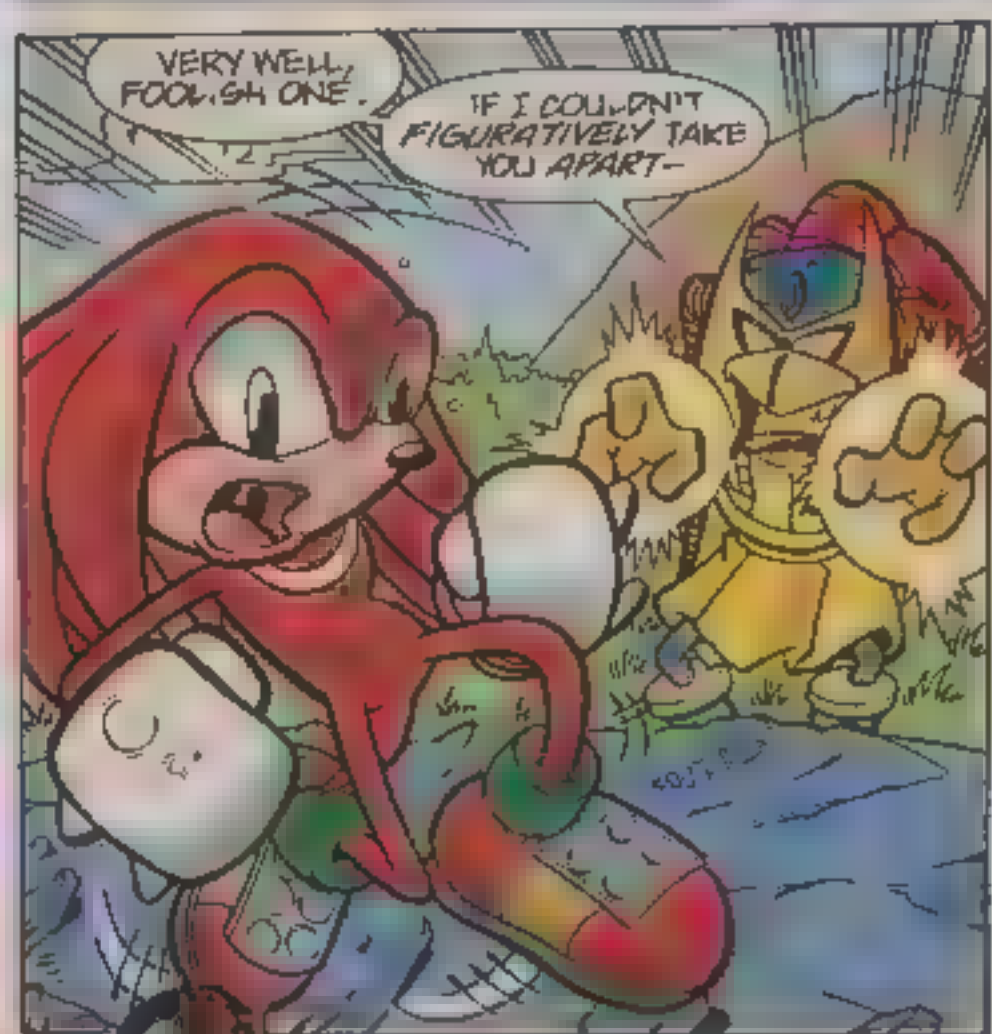
TOUGHER THAN THIS?
I CAN'T REMEMBER—


"— EVER FEELING THIS HELPLESS!"


WHOA!!


THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE, KNUCKLES!
SUCCUMB TO ME - OR ELSE!




VERY WELL, FOOLISH ONE.
IF I COULDN'T FIGURATIVELY TAKE YOU APART—

—TAKING YOU APART LITERALLY WILL DO JUST AS WELL.
ENJOY LIFE AS A NEURON!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
To be continued...
(Maybe... possibly... we hope?)

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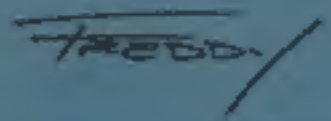
FISTFUL OF LETTERS

In two weeks: *Who says things are quiet now that there is peace on Mobius?* ***The Freedom Fighters*** *are at it again. This time against a new threat in the form of* ***Eggbots.*** *Controlling them from behind bars is none other than* ***Snively.*** *He is on the attack as he makes his first move toward seeking power. And that power shows up in the form of* ***Monkey Khan,*** *a cyborg monkey created by* ***Robotnik*** *years ago. Is he friend or foe? Only this story knows for sure. Writer/Penciler Frank Strom chronicles this tale with inks by Ken Penders. Also in this issue: What is wrong with* ***King Acorn?*** *He's ordering the dismantling of ALL roboticized Mobians, including* ***Uncle Chuck! SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #55 on sale December 1997!***

In three weeks: It's the premiere of Nights Into Dreams #1 *(based on the game by Sega Saturn). When was the last time* ***you*** *felt in control of* ***your dreams?*** *Well,* ***Elliot and Claris*** *might have the answer. Join them as they help* ***Nights*** *stop* ***Wizeman The Wicked*** *from making reality into his own* ***realm of nightmares.*** *This rock'em-sock'em three-issue mini-series is brought to you by writer* ***Dan Slott,*** *who brought you 'Ren & Stimpy, the comic book' and 'TMNT: The Year of the Turtle mini-series.' He is joined by penciling sensations* ***Patrick "Spaz" Spaziante and Manny Galan.*** *Inking by the man they call* ***Harvo.*** *Look out for those* ***computer-rendered covers*** *by the* ***Spaz/Harvo/Heroic Age*** *team. Find the coupon in this issue and order this new mini-series today!* ***NIGHTS INTO DREAMS #1 on sale December 1997!***

And next month: The conclusion to this three-part epic. Everybody is in it. Need we say more? KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #9 on sale December 1997!

Catch you on the flip side!



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #55 ON SALE DECEMBER 1997

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FISTFUL OF LETTERS #6

c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 419
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e-mail address: **KnuxNotes@aol.com**
website: **www.archiecomics.com**

Because of limited space, the editors cannot guarantee that all correspondence will be published and reserve the right to edit messages as they see fit.

Dear Knuckles-Grams,

Before I begin, I'd like to give a big great thanks to the powers that be at Archie Comics and the Sonic editors. There, now that the mushy stuff is over with, let's get on to my comments on Knuckles: The Dark Legion #2.

To my surprise, Knuckles TDL is turning out to be even better than the first Knuckles mini-series! I speak the honest-to-Sainly truth when I say that this was the best Knuckles story I've ever read thus far. Much kudos to Manny Galan! From some of the video game references he's slipped into his art, I believe he's a fellow video game fan like Spaz! The Galan+Pepoy team makes the absolute best art available in Sonic comics outside of the Spaz+Harro team.

I find it interresting how Knuckles is supposedly the "Guardian of the Floating Island," yet the guardians are apparently supposed to run operations from this place called "Haven." Knuckles' father is watching him from Haven, which leads me to believe that Knuckles is actually still under training for guardian. That means Knuckles' father is actually still the real guardian! Hmmm... anyhow, thanks for reading my letter, and don't ever stop making Sonic comics! (And start making another Knuckles series, my army of insane Knuckles fans are getting a little—heh, heh—restless!) Heh,heh,heh...

Sonic-cerely,
Green Gibbon
Church Point, LA

Thanks for the rave review, Gibbon. All we can say is if you keep reading them, we'll keep making them.

Dear Knuckles,

I'm your biggest, biggest, BIGGEST fan. I have both of your Sega games. I beat the 'Sonic and Knuckles' game as Hyper Knuckles every time. I have all the Sonic Specials that you appeared in. I also have your first mini-series. It was great! The Dark Legion mini-series is even better! I just got #2 and it just keeps getting better and better. I hope that you get your own regular series soon. You're my favorite Freedom Fighter and I know you're way past cooler than Sonic. You can tell him that if you want.

Your #1 Rad Red Fan,
Carlotta "The Knucrabolic" Davis (age 15)
Montgomery, AL

Well, I don't know anybody cooler than the Blue Blur but thanks for thinking I'm it. As you well know by now, I did get my own series and I couldn't have done it without the support of my fans.

Dear Knuckles,

I heard you're getting your own comic series and I just wanted to be first to congratulate you! I have some questions to ask you: 1) What happened to your mom? 2) How old were you when your dad went into the Forbidden Zone? 3) Would you ever join the Freedom Fighters? Well that's about it, catch you on the flip side.

Shane Crider
Yakima, WA

Thanks for the congrats, Shane. I am "mighty" proud (no pun intended). Now on to your questions: 1) As you saw in issue #4, my mom is just fine and is back in my life. 2) I was about nine years old. 3) Join The Freedom Fighters? I've got my own problems and responsibilities being the 'Guardian of The Floating Island' that there's not enough time for me to do both. But I do help from time to time whenever I can.

Dear Knux,

Why don't they give you a comic cover without Sonic on the front? I have some questions. 1) Who are Heavy and Bomb? 2) How many guardians has there been before you? 3) Is there any other intelligent life on The Floating Island besides you, the Chaotix, Benjy the Kangaroo and his mom, and Catweazle? I have every comic of yours besides "Chaotix", and the last of the "Dark Legion" and Sonic & Knuckles "Battle Royal".

See Ya,
Trevor Elvey
McKinceyville,CA

1) Heavy and Bomb were two of Robotnik's weapons that defected to The Floating Island for some peace and quiet.

2)There have been sixteen guardians before me. 3) Yeah. There's a whole bunch of other species on the island. We will be able to see more of them in future issues.

Dear Knuckles,

I LOVE YOU! Your appearances in the Sonic comics and your two mini-series were great. I love "Knuckles The Dark Legion" and am eagerly awaiting the release of "Knuckles The Echidna #4." I think you should have put in more of an appearance in "The Death-Egg Saga." I absolutely love what the artists at Archie have done with you. My favorite character to play in Sonic 3 is you.

What I'd really like to know is how can I get a copy of your debut in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #13?????? My lucky number is 13. I've searched and searched, but all I've found is issues #15 and #17. True, I didn't have them before , but I REALLY want issue #13. That will make my collection #1, #14-48 of the regular series, and all special issues (with exception of Sonic Ltd. #0-3).

Your Pal,
H. "Sketch" S.
HGSOLO@juno.com

SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #3: SONIC FIRSTS has my first appearance from SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #13. Get it while the getting is good. On sale now!

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